Tamilarasu

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73rd Republic Day Celebrations

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, honoured the recipients of the **Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi** Classical Tamil Awards given by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, by conferring the awards on the Tamil scholars, at the Anna Centenary Library at Chennai, on 22.01.2022.

73rd Republic Day celebrated with zest

Let us feel proud of our Achievements

"On this Republic Day, let us resolve to keep aloft the culture of secularism of the Constitution and feel proud of our achievements in developing our people in all sectors."

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. M.K. Stalin
(26.01.2022)

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. R.N. Ravi** hoisted the National Flag and paid his respects to the National Flag as part of the 73rd Republic Day celebrations, in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin**.

The Government of Tamil Nadu celebrated the 73rd Republic Day near Mahatma Gandhi's statue on Kamarajar Salai, Chennai at the morning of 26.01.2022. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** arrived at the venue, escorted by Traffic Police on a motorbike parade and he was received by the Chief Secretary to Government Dr. V. Irai Anbu I.A.S.

This was followed by the arrival of the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. R.N. Ravi**, escorted by Air Force personnel on a motorbike parade and the Hon'ble Chief Minister received him by offering a green basket. The Hon'ble Chief Minister introduced the high officials of the Three Defence Forces and the high officials of the Police Department, to the Hon'ble Governor.

The Hon'ble Governor then hoisted the National Flag in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and paid his respects to the tricolour. A helicopter from the Indian Air Force flew low and showered flower petals on the National Flag.

This was followed by a parade consisting of contingents of Military, Navy, combined Army Band, Air Force, Coast Guard, CRPF, CISF, RPF, Tamil Nadu Special Police Force (Men and Women) and various other segments of Defence Force. The Hon'ble Governor took the salute.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented Gallantry Awards inclusive of Anna Medals, 'Kottai Amir Virudhu', 'Gandhi Adigal Kavalar Padakkam' and the 'Thiru. C.Narayanaswamy Naidu Award for Paddy Productivity.'

In continuation of these events, there was a parade with three floats of the Government of Tamil Nadu. They depicted the participation of Tamil Nadu in the Freedom Struggle and attracted the attention of people who had gathered there. With the rendering of the National Anthem, the celebrations came to an end.

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“Valandru vendri tharuvadhu mannavan
koaladhooung koataa thenin” -Kural: 546

Victory to a Government comes not from the spear that thwarts enemies but from the unbent sceptre that nurtures citizens.

- From Kalaignar’s commentary on the Kural

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First Wrapper

Hon’ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. R. N.Ravi** and Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inspected the procession of tableaus designed so as to proclaim the role of Tamil Nadu in the freedom struggle, as part of India’s 73rd Republic Day celebrations that were held on Kamarajar Salai, Chennai on 26.01.2022.

Republic Day parade of decorated tableaus on Kamarajar Salai.

GALLANTRY AWARDS

In connection with the 73rd Republic Day celebrations, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu distributed medals including Anna Medal.

ANNA MEDAL - 2022

The recipients of ANNA MEDAL - 2022 (Government employees)-Tmt.Rajeswari, Inspector of Police, Kilpauk, Chennai District; Thiru. M. Rajiv Gandhi, Fire Service Personnel of Athiyur Thiruvathi, Villupuram District and Dr. K. Asokan, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Sarkar Samakulam, Coimbatore District; (General Public) - Thiru. Muthukrishnan, Driver, Vaigai Vadakarai, Sivagangai District; Selvan Lohith, T. Thulukkampatti, Tiruchirappalli District, Thiru. Chokkanathan and Tmt. Sudha alias Pechiammal, V. Kallipalayam, Tiruppur District and Thiru. M. Thaniyarasu, Thiruvottiyur, Chennai.

KOTTAI AMEER AWARD

This year's award is presented to Thiru. J. Mohammed Rafi of K.K. Pudur, Coimbatore District for striving to bring about religious and social harmony among people through promotion of cordiality.

GANDHI ADIGAL POLICE MEDAL

Thiru. P. Dakshinamurthy, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Central Intelligence, North zone, Chennai District; Thiru. M. Kumar, Police Inspector, Central Intelligence, Vellore Zone; Thiru. P. Sakthi, Inspector of Police, Enforcement Directorate, Ulundurpet, Kallakurichi District; Thiru. S. Chidambaram, Sub-Inspector of Police, Musiri, Tiruchirappalli District and Thiru. A. Ashok Prabakaran, Head Constable, on deputation to Central Intelligence Wing, Sunguvarchatram Police Station, Kancheepuram District.

BEST POLICE STATION AWARD

Best Police Station Award for best performance, reduction in the incidence of crimes and quick action - The First prize was given to Thiru. P. Pichaiyya, Inspector of Police, City Police Station (South), Tiruppur City; second prize to Tmt. A. Hemamalini, Inspector of Police, Tiruvannamalai Taluk Police Station and third prize to Thiru. M.Sadhu Ramesh, Inspector of Police, E - 3 Anna Nagar Police Station, Madurai City.

THIRU. C. NARAYANASAMY NAIDU AWARD

Thiru. C. Narayanasamy Naidu Award for paddy productivity is Agriculture Department's special award to the farmer who has attained the highest productivity through application of system of rice intensification technology. The award is presented to Thiru. S. Ramasamy of Poolampatti, Salem District.

Republic Day Tableaus portraying Tamil Nadu's great contribution to Freedom Struggle flagged off

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, at a function in the Island Grounds on 26.01.2022, flagged off three Republic Day tableaus portraying the role of Tamil Nadu in the Country's freedom struggle. These tableaus which participated in the Republic Day Parade in Chennai will tour the major cities in the State for display.

At the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on 26.01.2022, tableaus of States and the Departments of the Union Government, under the title 'India 75', were on display. This year the tableaus designed by the Government of Tamil Nadu portraying the role of Tamil Nadu in the freedom struggle, were submitted to the selection committee of the Union Government. The Selection Committee suggested some corrections three times and those corrections were carried out. However, without any reason, the Tamil Nadu Tableaus were denied participation in the Republic Day parade. The Hon'ble Chief Minister then wrote a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India expressing his regret for the denial.

Subsequently, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced that the decorated tableaus which were denied permission to participate in the New Delhi Republic Day Parade would participate in the Tamil Nadu Republic Day Parade in Chennai and would be shown all over Tamil Nadu.

In this connection, at the Republic Day Parade in Chennai on 26.01.2022, the 3 tableaus of Tamil Nadu that displayed the contribution of freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu who fought against British rule, took part in the Republic Day parade and elicited plaudits from the members of the general public. Now, these 3 tableaus will be taken around major cities of Tamil Nadu for public view. In the first phase, the tableaus will be shown in Coimbatore, Erode and Madurai. The Hon'ble Chief Minister flagged off the tour of the tableaus at the Island Grounds.

The tableaus will be on display at important junctions of the cities and will be received by the Hon'ble Ministers Collectors of the respective Districts, MPs, MLAs and the general public.

In the first phase, these tableaus reached Erode on 28.01.2022 and they were received by the Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Thiru. S.Muthusamy, District Collector, Chairman of Arasu Cable TV, MPs, MLAs and Government officials at the Collectorate complex. The tableaus received good response from the public, especially from school children.

Erode

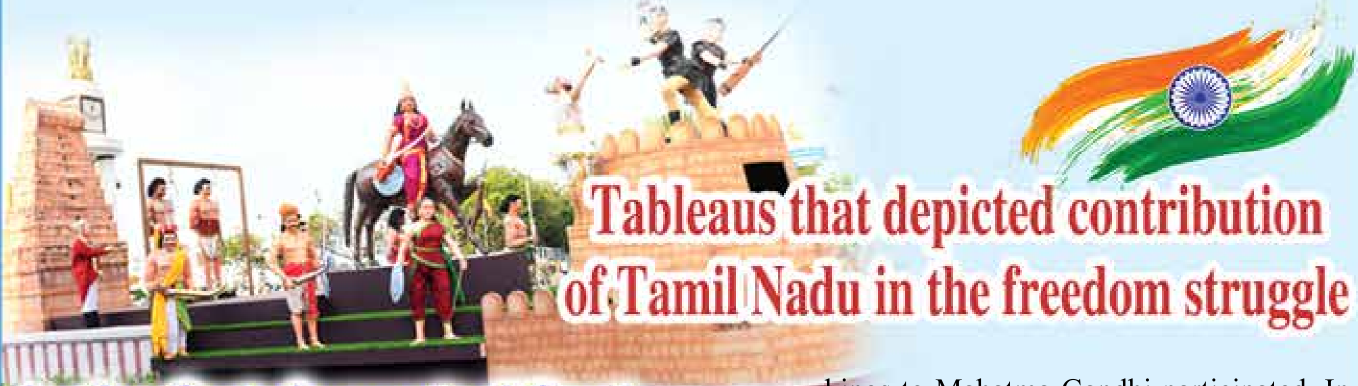
The decorated tableaus, which arrived at Surapatti Village in the Madurai District border on 28.01.2022, were received by the Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration Thiru. P.Moorthy and the District Collector. Later, the tableaus were stationed near Vandiyur Mariamman Kovil Tank for the public to view.

Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management, Dr.Palanivel Thiaga Rajan on 30.01.2022 offered his respects to the tableaus by showering flower petals.

On 28.01.2022, the tableaus reached Coimbatore and were received at the District border at Karumathampatti by Government officials and members of the general public with traditional folk dances. Director of Information and Public Relations Dr.V.P.Jeyaseelan I.A.S., and the Commissioner of Coimbatore Corporation opened the display of the Tableaus which were stationed at the V.O.C.Park for public view.

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** greeted the Director of Information and Public Relations, Dr.V.P.Jeyaseelan I.A.S., and the Department officials at the Secretariat on 27.01.2022 for decorating the Republic Day Tableaus and successfully organizing the pageantryof floats in the of Republic Day Celebrations.



Tableaus that depicted contribution of Tamil Nadu in the freedom struggle

In the first decorated float

Tamil Nadu's contribution to India's freedom struggle is vast. The British who came to trade under the British East India Company crushed the sentiments of the sons of the soil as times went by, usurped their rights and crowned themselves as rulers. Revolting against these atrocities, a great freedom struggle erupted from the Himalayas to Kanniyakumari in which countless persons from kings to Mahatma Gandhi participated. In that freedom struggle, the contribution of Tamil Nadu is significant. Even prior to the sepoy mutiny recorded in history as the first instance of freedom struggle, there is plenty of evidence that kings, chieftains and freedom fighters raised their voice against the British on Tamil soil. In the Republic Day parade, Tamil Nadu's contribution in the Freedom Struggle was exhibited through depiction of a few events and statues of some thiyagis in decorated tableaus.

Vellore Fort

The first battle-field that sowed the seed for freedom struggle was Vellore Fort. The British soldiers and their subordinate Indian soldiers were keeping vigil over the fort where the heirs of Tipu Sultan were imprisoned. The Indian soldiers revolted as they considered that the new leather hat introduced by the British General John Craddock was made of cow's hide and that the bullets supplied to them were coated with pork and added to it, and also against the order that soldiers should not wear religious symbols.

On the night of July 10, 1806, around 2 o'clock, the Indian soldiers and fighters revolted and seized the Fort, shooting down the British officers. On learning about the revolt, the British army rushed to Vellore under Commander Gillaspie from Arcot and other areas, killed the revolutionaries and re-captured the Fort.

Though the Vellore Revolt was a failure, it sowed the seeds for the Freedom Struggle and became a precursor for such efforts.

Marudhu Brothers

Among the freedom fighters in South India, the first ones to mobilize the people against the British were the kings of Sivagangai, the Marudhu Brothers.

The Marudhu Brothers were born at Mukkulam Village near Narikudi in Virudhunagar District, the elder one in 1748 and the younger one in 1753. Coming to know of their gallant acts, the King (Poligar) of Sivagangai Muthu Vaduganathar appointed them as army commanders, personal guards and advisers. After King Muthu Vaduganathar was killed in a clandestine attack by the British in 1772, the Marudhu Brothers helped the King's wife Velu Nachiyar to oppose the British. They attacked the Sivagangai kingdom with an army lent by Hyder Ali and with the help of the general public, defeated the British and crowned Velu Nachiyar as the queen of Sivagangai.

The Marudu Brothers worked hard to bring about unity among the local kings for driving out the British from the country. The Marudhu Brothers' famous 'Jambu Island Declaration' was promulgated from the Tiruchi Fort on June 16, 1801. Realizing that the two brothers could not be won in a war, the British arrested them treacherously. The Marudhu Brothers were hanged at the Tirupattur Fort on October 24, 1801.

The two brothers were the first ones to mobilize the people to drive out the British from the country.

Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar

Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar was the first Indian woman to take up arms against the British in the freedom struggle. She was the only female hero who recaptured her kingdom that had been lost to the British.

She was born in 1730 as the daughter of the Ramanathapuram king Muthu Vijayaragunatha Selladurai Sethupathi and was married to the Sivagangai Seemai Poligar Muthu Vaduganathar in 1746.

She escaped from Sivagangai Seemai when the British treacherously killed the Poligar Muthu Vaduganathar in 1772, took refuge in the Dindigul and Virupatchi forts and mobilized an army. Under the leadership of the Marudhu Brothers, she fought the British with modern weapons supplied by Hyder Ali and captured Kalaiyarkovil first. Later, on a Vijayadasami Day, along with her army comprising only women, she entered the palace feigning to go to the temple there and launched a surprise attack and captured the Sivagangai Fort. Velu Nachiyar's life testifies to the courage of the Tamil land and the heroism of women.

Roughly a century earlier to Jhansi Rani, the woman freedom fighter from North India, Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar of Tamil Nadu became the first woman to fight the British.

Veerathai Kuyili

In the Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar's army that fought the British, Veerathai Kuyili was the Commandant of the women's wing and was the first suicide squad fighter.

She was born in a poor family at Kundanchavadi in Sivagangai District. Due to her courage and wisdom, she rose to be the leader of the 'Udayal Women's Army' in the Velu Nachiyar Army, defeated the conspiracy of the British and protected Velu Nachiyar's life. When Kuyili came to know that women were allowed to visit the Rajarajeswari temple in the Sivagangai Fort during the Vijayadasami festival in 1780, she advised the entry of Velu Nachiyar army that had defeated the Nawab's army at Virupakshi and captured Kalaiyarkoil, into Sivagangai fort in disguise. The setback suffered by the army while fighting in disguise was on account of the huge arsenal of the British. On realizing it, Veerathai Kuyili poured oil over her body, set fire to herself, jumped into the arsenal and destroyed it and thus ensured victory to Velu Nachiyar.

Veerathai Kuyili, the hero of the war to re-capture the Sivagangai Seemai from the British was the first suicide squad warrior in the entire world.

Maaveeran Veerapandiya Kattabomman

Maaveeran Veerapandiya Kattabomman, the Poligar of Panchalankurichi, relentlessly challenged the hegemony of the British.

Born to the Panchalankurichi Poligar Jagaveera Kattabomman in 1760, Veerapandiya Kattabomman crowned himself when he was 30-years-old and ruled the 96 villages of Panchalankurichi. He refused to pay taxes to the British Commander Maxwell, authorized to collect tax in Tirunelveli District. Hence Lord Allen laid siege to Panchalankurichi in 1797. The guerrilla type warfare of the native soldiers drove out the British army. Jackson became the Collector of Tirunelveli District. Accepting his invitation, Veerapandiya Kattabomman went to Ramanathapuram on September 10, 1798 to meet him. Jackson humiliated Kattabomman without giving him a seat upon which Kattabomman walked out stating it was wrong on the part of the British to think of collecting taxes from natives.

In 1799, a war was declared on Panchalankurichi under Major John Bannerman with the help of the army of Ettappa Naicker. They captured the fort on September 9. Kattabomman escaped but was betrayed by the Pudukkottai King and was arrested. On October 16, he was hanged from a tamarind tree. He retained his self respect till his last breath declaring that it was better to die in a war heroically than lead a life after losing honour. Through his life, courage and sacrifice, he won the hearts of Indians.

Veeran Sundaralingam

To save his native land from the British and uphold the trust of his followers in him, Veeran Sundaralingam turned into a suicide squad and etched the path for a revolutionary journey.

Born in a poor family at Governagiri near Panchalankurichi on April 16, 1770, he learnt martial arts and taught them to the youth with the meagre income he earned. Veerapandia Kattabomman, impressed by his honesty, courage and wisdom, appointed him as a commander in his army.

In 1799, Veeran Sundaralingam was in charge of espionage when the British laid siege to Panchalankurichi and attacked it. He realized that the British victories were due to their huge pile of weaponry. He asked his niece to come as a shepherd with a flock of sheep to the place where the arms had been kept concealed amid shrubs, on 8th September. He vaulted into the shrubs with a torch in hand and destroyed the weapons.

Veeran Sundaralingam was the first hero in India to launch a suicide attack against enemies in such a gallant manner.

Maaveeran Ondiveeran

Among the kings of small principalities in southern Tamil Nadu, Poolithevan was a notable warrior who won victories against the British in the freedom struggle. Maaveeran Ondiveeran was a commander in Poolithevan's army and was instrumental for many victories. His name was 'Veeran' (courageous person) but, as per history, he came to be known as Ondi Veeran as he preferred to go alone and exterminate enemies. He was also called the 'Sword of Poolithevan'.

The British had camped at Thirumalai in 1767 with the intention of launching an attack on Nerkattanseval. When they belittled Indians with the query whether there was any genuine fighter among them, Ondiveeran, by way of accepting the challenge, joined the British force in disguise, turned their cannon to face their own camps, mounted the Royal horse, operated their big bronze war drum and escaped, despite the loss of a hand. The British fired the cannon in the dark under the impression that the enemy had entered the camp, destroying their own camps and army. The loss of one hand never deterned Ondi Veeran from destroying the British lock, stock and barrel.

Maaveeran Poolithevan

Among the kings of Southern India, the Nerkattumseval Poligar Maaveeran Poolithevan is considered to be the prime opponent of the British.

Born in the year 1715, Kathappa Poolithevan was full of courage and religious devotion from his childhood days. Seeing Poolithevan's capabilities, his parents crowned him at the age of 12. Poolithevan refused to pay tribute to the British Commander Alexander Heron, authorized by the Nawab of Arcot to collect tax from the Poligars. In 1755, Alexander Heron went to attack Nerkattanseval with the help of Mabooskhan but Poolithevan intercepted his army midway and chased them out. This was the first defeat the British suffered on Indian soil in a face-to-face war.

Poolithevan who had defeated the British in many wars, defeated Khan Sahib also. Through treacherous means, Khan Sahib purchased Poligars and rebels and attacked the fort of Poolithevan. The war lasted 3 years. Poolithevan was defeated and escaped to the Western Ghats and went underground. The British who could not defeat him in a direct battle, in1767 played on his devotional trait, brought him cunningly to a Full Moon day Pooja and arrested him. No Poligar had ever waged wars against the British for more than 15 years as Maaveeran Poolithevan did.

Maaveeran Azhagumuthukone

To his credit, Veeran Azhagumuthukone, the King of Kattalankulam Seemai not only fought against the British but prevented Poligars from paying tribute to them.

He was born to the King Azhagumuthukone in 1710 and ascended the throne in 1750, at the age of 22. As he opposed and prevented Poligars from paying tribute to the British, they waged war on Kattalankulam Palayam under the leadership of Yusuf Khan. Despite being hit by a bullet in the leg, Azhagumuthukone continued to fight for 3 hours and was finally arrested, chained and taken to Nadukattoor where he was killed by being subjected to cannon fire with 6 commanders in July 1759. His endurance in not betraying anyone in the face of cannon fire earned Veeran Azhagumuthukone a permanent place in the Freedom Struggle.

Kalayarkovil

In the freedom struggle against the hegemony of the British in South Tamil Nadu, Kalaiyarkovil was a historic battle-field. Known as Thirukanaper, it is one of the 14 sacred devotional centres of the Pandiyan kingdom eulogized in song. It was a strong garrison for the Marudhu Pandiyars. The Raja Gopuram in front of the Someswarar sannadhi in Kalaiyarkovil, was constructed by the Marudhu Brothers. Kalaiyarkovil, the main battle-field against the British, was captured by the British on October 1, 1801. In the war to retrieve it, Marudhu Brothers were arrested and hanged. As per the last desire of the brothers, their bodies were buried in front of the temple tower of Kalaiyarkovil.

In the second decorated float...

Mahakavi Bharathiyar

Through his fiery articles and poems, Mahakavi Bharathiyar kindled the flame of independence in the hearts of the people of the country.

On December 11, 1882, he was born at Ettayapuram, Thoothukudi District. He was named Subramanian and called Subbaiah. The Ettayapuram Zamindar gave him the name Bharathi after seeing his skill in writing poems. He worked in many newspapers and magazines like Swadesamithran, Chakravarthini, India, Suryodayam, Karmayogi, Dharmam, Balabaratha and Young India.

He is hailed as the National Poet for his songs during the freedom struggle which ignited patriotism in the hearts of people. He was a fighter for women's rights and their freedom and wrote inspiring poems. He opposed child marriage. He adored his mother tongue Tamil as God. He was a passionate participant in the freedom struggle, was the target of British oppression and was jailed after getting arrested at Cuddalore. He died on September 12, 1921.

Working for the uplift of Tamil and for righteousness, Mahakavi Bharathiyar fanned the sacrificial fire of freedom through his revolutionary songs.

V.O. Chidambaranar

A freedom fighter and a scholar in Tamil and English, V.O. Chidambaranar was a multi-faceted personality as a lawyer, writer, orator and trade union leader.

He was born on September 5, 1872 at Ottapidaram in Thoothukudi District. He first worked in the Taluk office but started practicing law in Ottapidaram in 1895 and later in Thoothukudi. He started organizations like Swadeshi Prachara Sabha, Dharma Sanga Nesavu Salai, Thoothukudi Handicraft Sangam, Swadesiya Pandaga Salai and Agriculture Sangam.

His close friendship with Bharathiyar and interaction with Swami Ramakrishnanandar impelled him to start the first native shipping company against the British in 1907. The British regime charged him with sedition, sentenced him to 40 years imprisonment on July 8, 1908 and tortured him in Coimbatore prison, forcing him to haul the indigenous oil presser. People hailed him as 'Chekkizhutha Semmal'.

He studied the various Tamil literary works and wrote articles and poems on them. He also translated English books. He published the newspaper 'Thamizh Nesan'. He died on November 18, 1936.

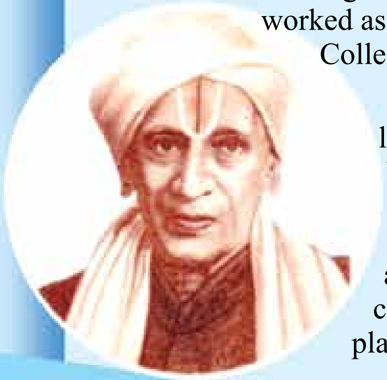
Thiyagi Subramaniya Siva

Thiyagi Subramaniya Siva was a spiritualist who fought for the freedom of India. He was born on 4.10.1884 at Vathalagundu in Dindigul District. He was named Subbaraman but was called Subramaniyan. Sri Sadananda Swamigal added the name Sivam and he came to be known as Subramaniya Siva.

The speeches of Arya Samaj volunteer Thakur Das spurred him into politics in 1906 and he started the Dharma Paripalana Samajam in Thiruvananthapuram in 1907. He was expelled from the Thiruvananthapuram Samasthanam on the charge of inciting youth to fight for freedom with his emotional speeches. In 1908, he joined V.O. Chidambaranar and worked with him. He thundered that Swaraj alone was permanent and he started the 'Swaraj Sangham' in 1920. He published the monthly and weekly magazines of Gnana Banu and Prapancha Mithran. He laid the foundation stone for Bharatha Matha Temple at Papparapatti. He led the Madras Tramway strike in 1920. He was imprisoned for celebrating the release of Bipin Chandra Pal. District Collector Ashe and Winch prohibited him from attending public meetings and the British Government arrested him on the charge of sedition. He was put in Tiruchi prison in 1921 where he contracted severe leprosy. On July 23, 1925 he died.

Salem Vijayaraghavachariar

A national leader who fought for the country's independence for 60 years. He was admired as the hero of Salem and the lion of South India. Salem Vijayaraghavachariar was born on June 18, 1852 at Kalathur Village near Madurantakam. He worked as a lecturer in Presidency College, Chennai in 1875.



He started practicing law at Salem in 1881and became a councillor in Salem Municipality in 1882. He was included as an accused in the communal riot that took place in Salem, sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, to be served in Andaman Island. From prison, he filed a case, proved he was innocent and got compensation also. He became a member of Madras Presidency Assembly in 1895.

In 1913, he was elected as a member to the Central Council and in 1920 as the President of the All India Congress Party. In 1927, he prepared the first Swaraj Constitution for India all by himself. He had served as President of Hindu Maha Sabha and was legal adviser to the Swadeshi Shipping Company of V.O.C. Along with Allen Octavian Hume, he worked with Dadabhai Naoroji and Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

A multi-faceted personality who was teacher, reformist, crusader against untouchability, advocate and an excellent constitutional expert, Vijayaraghavachariar died on April 19, 1944.

In the Third decorated float

Thanthai Periyar

Admired as the 'effulgent rationalist' Periyar E.V. Ramasamy was a forerunner to the progressive intellectuals of Tamil Nadu. Erode Venkata Ramasamy Naicker was born on September 17, 1879 in Erode. He held office in many public welfare institutions like Farmers' Union and Music Sabha.

He joined the Congress party due to his association with Varadarajulu Naidu and Rajaji and worked for the country's independence. He was attracted by Gandhi Adigal's prohibition, eradication of untouchability and non-co-operation movement and toured the whole of Tamil Nadu and propagated prohibition. He felled 500 coconut trees in his land as a mark of destroying toddy-yielding trees. He fought against untouchability at Vaikom in Kerala State and got permission for the scheduled castes to enter temples. He was hailed as the 'Hero of Vaikom'.

He started the weekly 'Kudiarasu' (Republic). Later he joined the Justice Party and worked for the Tamils. At the anti-Hindi conference in 1937, he gave a call 'Tamil Nadu for Tamils' and launched an agitation. Neelambikai Ammayar, the daughter of Maraimalai Adigal gave the title 'Periyar' to him at the Tamil Nadu Women's Conference held at Chennai on 13.11.1938. In 1944, he converted the Justice Party into the 'Dravidar Kazhagam'.

He insisted that Tamil should be the official language in Tamil Nadu and the archanas in temples should be in Tamil. He opposed the 'Kulakalvi' scheme. All through his life, he toiled for the removal of ignorance, superstition and caste distinction in society and was praised as 'Vendhadi vendar' and 'Paguthariyu singam'. He died on 24.12.1973.

Mootharignar Rajaji

The first Governor General of Independent India. An example of discipline and culture, Chakravarthi Rajagopalachari was born at Thorapalli Village, Krishnagiri District on 10.12.1878. Impressed by his intellectual acumen, Swami Vivekananda blessed him. A practitioner of law in Salem and Chennai, he was drawn to politics. Seeing Rajaji's intelligence, Gandhiji made him the leader of Satyagraha Movement.

The British Government awarded him 3 months imprisonment for participation in the agitation against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919. He became the Premier of Madras Presidency in 1937. He loved his mother tongue Tamil and Khadi and brought the Temple Entry Law. The President of the United States, John Kennedy lauded him for his work for the abolition of nuclear weapons. He translated the epics Ramayana and Mahabharatha as also the Upanishads and Bhagavat Geetha in Tamil in an excellent manner.

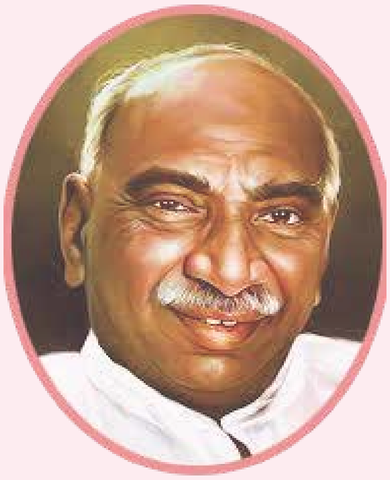
He wrote many books and poems in English. After 1917, he joined Gandhi Adigal and courted arrest in many agitations connected with freedom struggle like prohibition, eradication of untouchability, temple entry for the oppressed people, salt satyagraha and the non-cooperation movement. He functioned as the first Governor General of India in 1947. A friend of the poor throughout, Rajaji died in 1972 at the age of 95.

Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar

Muthuramalinga Thevar who fostered spirituality and nationalism as his two eyes, was born in the hamlet Pasumpon in Ramanathapuram District, on October 30, 1908. He was a great orator, spiritualist and an opponent of caste distinctions. He worked for the growth of the Congress party in South Tamil Nadu in 1936. In 1937, he was elected from Ramanathapuram constituency. He supported Vaidyanatha Iyer's agitation in 1939 for the entry of Harijans into Madurai Meenakshi Amman temple.

He supported Nethaji Subash Chandra Bose and joined him when the latter started the All India Forward Bloc party. The British Government filed the so-called Madura Security Case against him to prevent him from leaving Madurai, citing workers' agitations. He published a weekly magazine 'Nethaji'. In 1952 and 1957, he contested the Aruppukottai Lok Sabha and Mudukulathur Assembly Constituencies on behalf of Forward Bloc party and won them.

Karmaveerar Kamarajar

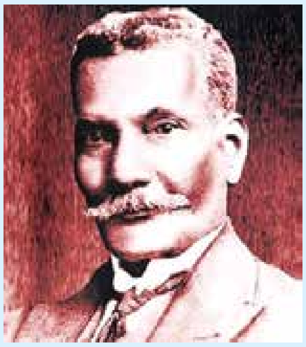


A selfless leader who considered the welfare of the country as his own welfare, 'Karmaveerar' Kamarajar was born on July 15, 1903 at Virudhupatti. He lost his father at the age of 6, went to work at his uncle's textile shop and thus put a stop to his elementary education.

He opposed the British as a follower of Mahatma Gandhi; participated in the salt satyagraha in 1930 and went to prison. He was the President of the All India Congress Party in 1947 and in 1950 and became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 1954 and 1957.

As Chief Minister, he started elementary schools in every village and implemented the mid-day meal scheme. He paved the way for agriculture development by constructing many dams and creating irrigation facilities. A model for truth, purity and honesty, he toiled for the country and the people for 57 years. Kamarajar was also praised as 'Karmaveerar', 'Perunthalaivar' and 'King Maker' and died on 02.10.1975.

Rettaimalai Seenivasan



Social reformer, advocate and Indian nationalist who raised his voice for the Adi Thamizhar people. He was born in a farmer's family at Kozhiyalam village in Kancheepuram District on 07.07.1859. Due to poverty, he stopped with his school education and began to think of ways of putting an end to the atrocity of untouchability.

He started 'Paraiyar Sabha' (Scheduled Castes Association) in 1891 and published a newspaper 'Paraiyan' in 1893. In the same year, he also convened a meeting to seek permission for the oppressed people to hold higher posts. He enrolled himself as a member in the 'Sarvakala Sangam' in Chennai and got house-site pattas for Adi Dravida people, lands for cultivation and educational facilities for their children.

In 1900, he became friendly with Gandhi Adigal in South Africa and taught him Tamil and Thirukkural. He participated in the Round Table Conference in London in the years 1930-1932 as a representative of the suppressed people. The British Government honoured him with Rao Sahib, Rao Bahadur and Diwan Bahadur titles. From 1923 to 1938, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly as a member of the suppressed class of people.

In 1940, he was awarded the title 'Dravidamani' under the president-ship of Rajaji and in the presence of Thiru.Vi. Ka. A tireless worker all through his life for the welfare of the suppressed classes, Rettaimalai Seenivasan died on 18.09.1945.

Veera Vanchinathan

In India's Freedom Struggle, the youth Veera Vanchinathan took to the revolutionary line and fought the British. He was born at Ambikapuram, Sengottai in 1886. He was well versed in Tamil, English, Malayalam and Sanskrit.

He plotted to wipe out British rule. As the Britishers sustained huge losses on account of the 'Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company' of V.O.C., Chidambaranar and Subramaniya Siva were arrested on the orders of the Tirunelveli Collector Ashe under Sedition Law for celebrating the 'Swarajya Day' and were imprisoned.

Erukkur Neelakantan, Vanchi and some others of the younger generation met together and formed the 'Bharatha Matha Sangam'. They sent a warning letter to Collector Ashe in 1910. Vanchi took training in pistol shooting under Va.Ve.Su. Iyer in Puducherry. When he learned that Ashe would be proceeding to Kodaikanal by train on June 17, Vanchi went with his friends and shot Ashe dead at the Maniyachi Railway station. He shot himself with the same gun making the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of the country.

Dheeran Chinnamalai

Dheeran Chinnamalai of Tamil Nadu who fought against the British regime for the freedom of India was born at a hamlet S. Melapalayam near Kangeyam on April 17, 1756. He was named Theerthagiri Goundar.

Kongu Nadu was under the rule of the Mysore King and Theerthagiri looted the tax money being taken to Mysore via Sankagiri and distributed it to poor people. When the tax officer questioned him, the reply he gave was: " Tell them that a Chinnamalai (small mountain) between Chennimalai and Sivan Malai looted the money". From that day, he came to be called Chinnamalai.

When Tipu Sultan became the ruler of Mysore in 1782 and started opposing the British, Maaveeran Chinnamalai mobilized the Kongu youth and helped him. Angered by this, the British Commander Maxwell waged a battle to capture Odanilai fort. Despite two attempts, the British could not win. In a cunning way, they made use of a cook and arrested Chinnamalai and his brothers while proceeding to take food and hanged them in 1806.

Kodi Kaatha Kumaran

The brutal police lathi-charge on the nationalists to disperse an agitation against the British did not deter freedom fighter Thiyagi Tiruppur Kumaran from holding aloft the national flag even though he was beaten black and blue to the point of swooning. He was born on October 4 , 1904 at Chennimalai, Erode District. His original name was Kumarasamy.

Drawn by Mahatma Gandhi Adigal's policies, he participated in agitations in a non-violent way. Despite his work in a cotton company, he became a member in the Deshbandhu Youth Association and devoted himself to national service round-the-clock. As Gandhi Adigal's 1930 salt satyagraha gained in strength, he participated in agitations.

The Deshbandhu Youth Association launched an agitation on 10.1.1932 and Tiruppur Kumaran joined it with the tri-colour in his hands. The police surrounded and thrashed the agitators as if they were beating mad dogs. In the attack, Kumaran's skull broke, blood gushed out and he swooned. Even at that critical time, he held fast to the National Flag. He died on 11.01.1932.

The greatness of Kumaran is unique in Indian history as he protected the dignity of the nation by holding aloft the tri-colour even as his body was dropping dead.

Va.Ve.Subramaniya Iyer

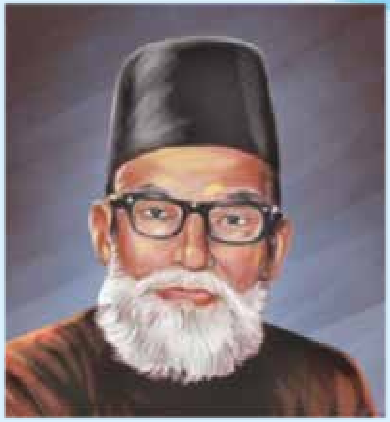
Va.Ve. Su. Iyer, writer, ace journalist, man of great character, expert in Tamil literature and a freedom fighter known for his integrity was born at Varahaneri, Tiruchi on 02.04.1881. His full name was Varahaneri Venkata Subramaniya Iyer.

Iyer stayed in India House in London and studied for the barrister degree but did not take the degree as he had to take an oath of allegiance to the British Government. The British Government sensing repudiation tried to block India House and arrested his guru, Savarkar. The Indian patriots and Iyer left London and went to Paris.

Savarkar was brought to India and the British Government sentenced him to 50 years imprisonment. Coming to know about it, Va.Ve.Su.Iyer came to India in disguise. The British Government wanted to arrest Iyer, who was staying in Puducherry and included him in the Ashe case as the person who trained Tamil youth in firearms.

He started a gurukulam in Cheranmahadevi, Tirunelveli. He published a monthly 'Balabharathi' and was Editor of the newspaper 'Desabakthi' (Patriotism). He wrote many good books. On 03.06.1925, he drowned in the Courtallam Falls when he tried to save his daughter who tripped and fell into the waters.

Kanniyathendral Quaid-e-Millath



The dignified Quaid-E-Millath was born at Pettai in Tirunelveli District on June 5, 1896. His parents named him Mohamed Ismail. He had a flair for learning from a very young age.

Without slipping even an iota from the practice of dignity and honesty in public life, he carried out his national and religious activities. He joined the non-cooperation movement of Gandhi Adigal. For 16 years from1920, he fought for the Independence of the country as one of the great leaders of the Congress party.

He joined the Muslim League party in 1936 in deference to the call of Jinnah. Later, he became the leader of Indian Muslim League. During the partition of the country in 1947, the Muslim League Party also split and he was appointed the Convenor of the Indian Union Muslim League. He became its President in 1948. In 1946, he became a member of the Madras Legislative Assembly. He was Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly till 1952.

From 1948 to 1950, he was a member of the Constituent Assembly and drafted a Constitution acceptable to all religionists and castes. He was a member of Rajya Sabha from 1952 to 1958 and later represented the Manjeri constituency in Kerala in the Lok Sabha in 1962. He died on 05.04.1972.

J. C. Kumarappa

A Gandhian in simplicity and ideology, J.C.Kumarappa was born in Thanjavur District on January 4,1892. The name given to him by his parents was Joseph Chelladurai Cornelius.

When Gandhi was busy with the salt satyagraha movement, Kumarappa became the Editor of Mahatma Gandhi Adigal 'Young India' magazine and continued the attack on the British regime.

He was imprisoned for 18 months in 1931 for writing 'seditious' articles. In 1932, he was sentenced to 2 years rigorous imprisonment.

He opposed the cultivation of cash crops in lands where food crops should be raised as also the tobacco crop that harms the body. He said only those industries that were in tune with Nature would survive for centuries.

An expert in Gandhian economics, he formulated the policies for a village economy. J.C.Kumarappa died on January 30, 1960.

Thiyaga Seelar Kakkan

Known as 'Thiyaga Seelar' to all people, Kakkan was born on June 18, 1909 at Thumbaipatti Village in Madurai District.

In 1932, Through agitations, he worked for the implementation of the agreement between Ambedkar and Gandhi Adigal that all civil rights in the Hindu society would be given to the untouchables in 10 years. He participated in the temple entry agitation, the core of Mahatma Gandhi's untouchability eradication movement and dedicated himself to the country's freedom. He was imprisoned in Thanjavur jail for one-and-a-half years for participating in the 'Quit India Movement'.

He was hailed by Gandhi Adigal and selected as member of the Constituent Assembly in 1946. He was President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee(1954-1957) and was elected to the Legislative Assembly from Melur. He became a Minister in the Kamarajar Ministry in 1957 and served excellently.

Thiyaga Seelar Kakkan who lived by the motto 'Duty is God' and shed light by sacrificing self-interest, died on 28.12.1981.

Support for the Bill will proclaim that the Indian sub-continent belongs to people of all races

Speech of the Hon'ble
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
M.K.Stalin during the discussion on
NEET Exemption Bill in the
Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly
on 08.02.2022 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

When the process of election was introduced to elect people's representatives, it was conducted in the Madras Presidency also. When the first general election was held in the year 1920, the Justice Party, the first-born of the Dravidian Movement, formed the Government. That was during the British period. Those who came to India from England, to witness the functioning of the Assembly, registered their comments that only in the Madras Presidency in India the rule of law was being upheld based on the administrative norms.

This day is an important day for the Assembly which established such democratic values. We have assembled here to safeguard democracy, save the greatness of People's Rule, establish the principle of federalism and win the educational rights of people. We have not assembled here just to talk against NEET but also to protect the sovereign rights of this Assembly. The federal set up really protects India. We have met here to save that great federal set up. I entered political life at the age of 16. But today happens to be the most memorable day in my public life. I stand before you with that feeling.

This Assembly laid the foundation for social justice, even a century ago. This Assembly was mainly responsible for bringing the First Amendment to our Constitution. This Assembly strengthened Social Justice by providing reservation for the Backward Classes, for SC and ST people, for Minorities and the internal reservation for Arunthathiar community. This Assembly played a crucial role in getting 27 percent reservation for OBCs at the national level in Union Government jobs and for the implementation of the Mandal Commission report. This Assembly ensured 7.5 percent reservation for students of Government schools in medical colleges.

This Assembly provided 7.5 percent reservation for Government school students in professional colleges, including in engineering colleges. This Assembly got 27 per cent reservation in the all-India quota of medical college seats, not only for Tamil Nadu but for the entire country. Tamil Nadu created a record in the country by implementing the 69 percent reservation for the first time and to guarantee Constitutional protection to the reservation ensured its inclusion in the Ninth schedule of the Constitution. Abolition of entrance test for admission in engineering and medical colleges was done through this Assembly. The then President of India gave his nod to the abolition. That was upheld by the Madras High Court and the Hon'ble Supreme Court. That Law which was accepted by the President was in force in Tamil Nadu for the last 10 years. Students were

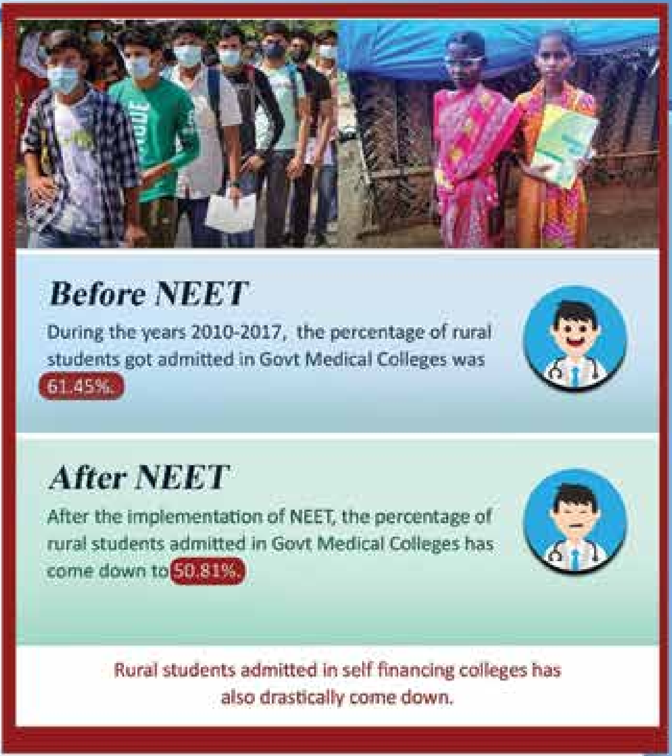
admitted to engineering and medical colleges on the basis of their 12th standard marks. Due to this, a large number of students from villages, poor students from urban areas and the middle class joined professional colleges and graduated. They are now serving society at the all-India and international level. The Assembly that laid the foundation for social justice, legal Justice, rights of the oppressed, eminence of Tamil people and the greatness of Tamil will definitely do away with NEET. I am speaking with confidence that this Assembly will certainly abolish NEET.

The DMK Government, which came to power eight months ago, has convened this special session. In a similar manner, our mentor, Arignar Anna, convened a special historic meeting of the Assembly on January 23, 1968, to adopt a resolution for implementing the two language formula in the State to assert the language rights of the Tamil people and to meet the demands of students.

The resolution said that in a country where there were different languages, cultures and civilizations, the move to declare one particular language of a particular area as the official language would destabilize the unity of the country and would try to make other languages, slaves of that language. For that reason, the Constitution should be amended to make Tamil and other national languages in the country as the official languages at the Union and till then English should be the Official language of the Union Government. The language sections of the Constitution should be amended to this end. The House decided to adopt the two-language formula of Tamil and English in schools and removed Hindi completely from the school curriculum.

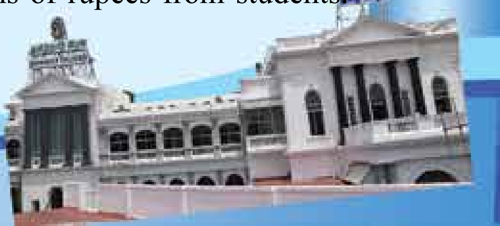
In a similar manner, we have convened a special meeting of the Assembly today to announce the social justice education policy for the entire country. We will all unite and co-ordinate to implement social justice and to satisfy the medical aspirations of poor students. We have assembled here to save the sovereignty of the Assembly and to reflect the aspirations of 8 crore people and to ensure the Assembly' s power to enact a law as per the Constitution.

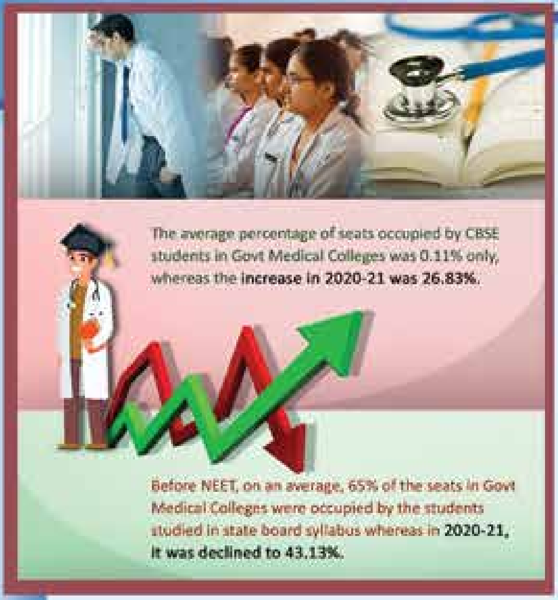
The NEET examination was not created by the Constitution. It is not an examination found in the Constitution. The NEET examination was created by the Indian Medical Council regulatory rules. When the NEET was announced in the year 2010, it was strongly opposed by Muthamizh Arignar Dr.Kalaignar. Many States also opposed NEET. A total of 115 cases were filed against the introduction of NEET. Tamil Nadu was the first State to file the case. All these cases came before the Supreme Court.



The Supreme Court in its ruling on July 18, 2013 ruled that this examination was against the Constitution and the ruling was given by the SC Bench led by the Chief Justice. That put an end to the NEET examination in the Indian Sub-continent. But after the BJP came to power, a private training institute took up the NEET case again and it came to the Supreme Court. Immediately after the case came for hearing, the Supreme Court on 24.05.2016 said that the Judgment is recalled and this case can be heard afresh. Based on the Judgment, the BJP Government, on 11.04.2016 promulgated an ordinance for introducing the NEET throughout India.

The NEET examination favours private training institutes. By way of training, these institutes collect lakhs of rupees from students.





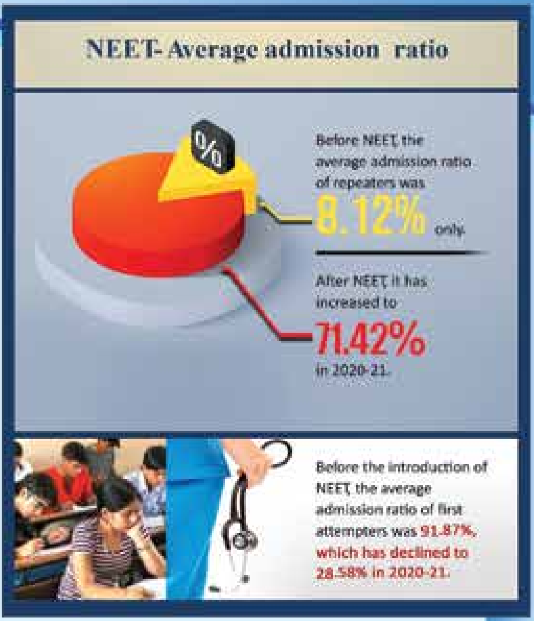
NEET is beneficial to these training institutes only. We fought for those who could not afford to pay such a huge amount to these institutes. The NEET examination blocks the educational rights of poor students. It blocks their dream of admission to medical colleges. It tells them, "You cannot become a doctor, you have no eligibility". That is the reason we are bringing this anti-NEET Bill. I don't want to list the irregularities that have occurred in this examination.

In the year 2019 examination, 4 persons were arrested. In the year 2020, 5 persons were arrested for committing irregularities. In 2021, the Union Government itself admitted in the Lok Sabha that 15 persons were arrested for irregularities in the NEET examination. Irregularities like impersonation, theft of question papers, and change of answer papers were reported. CBI cases were registered. Not only in Tamil Nadu, cases were filed against the irregularities of NEET by the Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra Governments. A student Udit Surya and his father Venkatesan were arrested for impersonation. So far, 5 students and their parents (6 persons) and a broker, in total 12 persons have been arrested. The photographs of 10 persons held for impersonation were released by the Tamil Nadu CB-CID. A student belonging to Coimbatore filed a case in the Madras High Court stating that his score was shown as 594 out of 700 on the internet on October 5, and 248 on October 17. When he demanded an explanation from authorities, instead of giving proper explanation, they filed a petition in the court for dismissal of the petition. On 09.02.2021, the High Court asked why these cases should not be transferred to the CBI. Another woman candidate charged that there had been some irregularities in evaluating her answer sheets. While she had not answered only one question, it had been shown that she had not answered 11 questions. She had also filed a case in this connection.

The Union Government itself informed the Lok Sabha on 03.12.2021 that 15 students had been suspended for indulging in irregularities. Some students also filed a case in the Supreme Court on 29.09.2021. They alleged that there were many irregularities in the NEET examination that was held on September 12, including impersonation. So the examination should be cancelled.

So what we want to say is that NEET is not something that has dropped from the sky. But it is an examination with many irregularities and it sidelines poor students in the name of merit. That is the reason for our demand for the abolition of the NEET examination. Rather than calling it the NEET examination, it should be termed as an examination that kills students. NEET is not an examination. It is a sacrificial altar. We have lost many students, including Anitha. It is not their parents alone who lost their kids. The State and the country lost the precious lives of some members of the younger generation.

Our question is whether the examination which sent some people to the grave and some others to jail is necessary. It is not only our question but the question of the entire student community, their parents and the general public. That is the reason we are going to adopt the resolution demanding the abolition of NEET. We had not adopted the resolution without any purpose. The abolition of NEET was for the benefit of students and for the realization of their medical dream. To find out whether the NEET examination had caused any impact on poor students, we formed a committee headed by a retired High court Judge, Justice. Dr.A.K.Rajan, on 10.06.2021. The Committee heard the views of students and the general public and submitted a 193-page report to the Government, on 14.07.2022. The report said that students belonging to poor families could not pursue medical



education. They are talking about talent and competency. Even that merit and talent are not tested in this examination.

I, as the Chief Minister of the State, appointed a committee led by the Chief Secretary to submit detailed recommendations to the Government. Only after doing all these earlier studies, the Assembly adopted a resolution that the NEET examination should be dispensed with.

Of the 234 Members in the House, resolution was adopted with the support of all including the Hon'ble Speaker, except for 4 BJP members. This resolution reflects the feeling of the whole of Tamil Nadu and the sovereignty of the Assembly. The Hon'ble Governor, instead of accepting the resolution and forwarding it to the Hon'ble President, kept it without taking any action for 142 days. After our repeated demands, the Hon'ble Governor returned the resolution adopted by the Assembly.

The Hon'ble Governor said that the report by Justice A.K.Rajan was based on speculation. The A.K.Rajan Committee was appointed on 10.06.2021 as per G.O. No 283 of the Health and Family Welfare Department. Education experts and Government officials were appointed as members of the Committee. The guidelines and the limits of the High Power Committee were also announced by the Government. Views from the general public, through emails, normal post and suggestion boxes at the Commission officers were also received. Thousands of people responded to the Commission's request.

The Commission submitted a detailed report on 14.07.2021, after hearing the views from 86,342 persons. The report was prepared not on speculation but based on views of one lakh and odd people. In the report, the Commission felt that the NEET examination was a hindrance to the medical dream of those who are in the Backward Classes and was favourable to affluent students. The examination has reduced the social representation of various sections in the MBBS and PG admission. This also is not speculation but based on statistics.

The Hon'ble Governor commented about the report's observation that the NEET examination was against the competency of the students. The report had denied the Governor's observation by giving supporting evidence. The rural students and Tamil medium students of Government Higher Secondary Schools were the worst affected. I would like to mention at this juncture that students who got the medical seat based on the 7.5 percent reservation for Government school students should not be construed as having benefited by the NEET examination.

The Governor said that the examination skills of the students in Chemistry, Physics and Biology had not been tested. But all Plus 2 students have studied these subjects and got high marks in the Plus 2 public examination. That is the reason for our stand that there is no need for another qualification examination. Before the introduction of the NEET, 90 per cent of the selected students of the MBBS course were from schools having State Board syllabus. After the introduction of NEET, the percentage of students studying with State syllabus who got admission in the MBBS course has come down.

This discrimination is similar to apartheid against blacks, if questions are not prepared on the basis of State Board syllabus.

NEET is not an education system. It is a training system. It encourages private training institutes. According to these institutes, those who do not undergo private training are not eligible for education.

A student has to sacrifice two to three years to undergo the training. How many poor and backward students can afford training at the cost of a few years?.

Those who cannot afford to undergo the training by paying

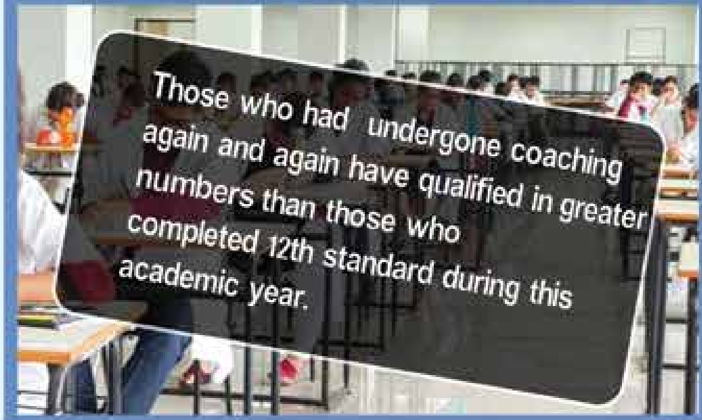
huge fees are denied admission and those who could undergo training for two to three years are alone admitted in the medical course. This itself is educational untouchability of the 21st century. Should not this untouchability under the guise of merit be removed? This is the reason for bringing the anti-NEET BILL in the Assembly.

Some Members spoke about Vellore Christian Medical College. The Governor also quoted this case. But that case is about the rights given to minority institutions against the NEET examination. It does not question the Legislative Assembly's power to enact the law. So there is no connection between that case and the current Anti-NEET Bill of the Assembly.

In the Modern Dental Hospital vs Madhya Pradesh Case, the five-Member Supreme Court Bench ruled that the State Government alone has the power to enact a law concerning students' admission in higher education institutions. In the same case, Justice Banumathi in her separate judgment said that the State Government alone had the power to enact a law to regulate students' admission. We have brought this anti-NEET Bill based on the power vested with the Assembly.

The Hon'ble Governor opined that the NEET examination was necessary as per the Constitution. But the same Constitution says that to ensure the rights of economically and socially backward people, laws can be enacted. Based on that only, the House has brought this Bill. The Laws of the Constitution are against discrimination. But the NEET examination shows discrimination. Constitution Law insists upon Social Justice but NEET is against Social Justice. Constitutional Law speaks about legal justice. But NEET speaks about justice for affluent people. Socialism is the basic tenet of the Constitution. But the NEET examination is completely against the Constitution. The NEET examination is against all basic rights enshrined in the Constitution. That is why we want the abolition of the NEET examination. My only regret is that I have to argue for such a long time that the worst NEET examination is against the interests of poor and rural students. It is unfortunate that those who should understand are not able to understand it. Perarignar Anna, when he was the

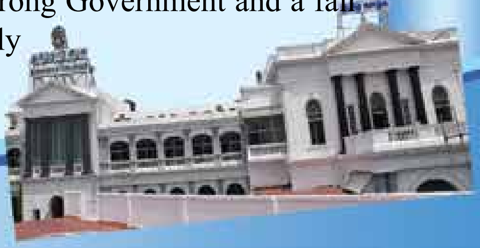
DOMINANCE OF NEET COACHING CENTRES

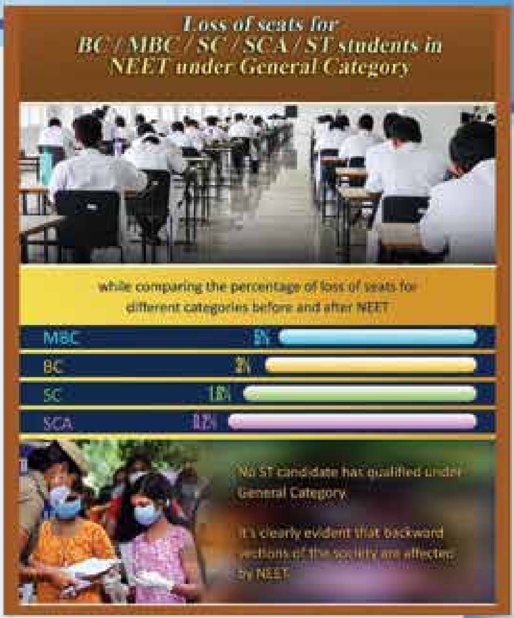


Chief Minister, spoke to an official in New Delhi about a sugar plant at Kallakurichi. It took nearly 15 minutes for Arignar Anna to make the official understand Kallakurichi. In a similar manner we have been explaining about the evil effects of the NEET examination. Still they are not able to understand. I don't know actually whether they are not able to understand or they are pretending that they have not understood it. But we have to inform them that we will not leave the issue till we succeed.

As I said earlier, it is not the NEET issue alone. I am not seeing from the angle that the Assembly adopted a resolution and sent it to the Governor, who returned the Bill. You should not see the issue from that angle. By returning the Bill, the rights of this Assembly have been questioned. The sovereignty of the Assembly has been challenged. It is an attack on the State's autonomy. Federalism has been turned upside down. That worries me and makes me sad. It is unfortunate that if this is the fate of a resolution adopted by this Assembly, which is a model to other Assemblies in the Indian Sub-continent, then what will be the state of affairs with regard to other Assemblies. What will happen to the Constitutional relationship between the Union and State Governments. Is it not against the philosophy of democracy, when the Governor, a nominated person, rejects Government policy, adopted by the House elected by the people.

Unity in diversity is the culture of the Indian Sub-continent. Shall we destroy it? Those who can think should evaluate this. If it is a question of choosing between a strong Government and a fair Government, it is only





the fair Government that is liked by all people. A strong empire will find its name only in history. But it is an Emperor Asoka who was against discrimination who is still remembered by the people. It is really regrettable that scenes have been created in an attempt to destroy the federal structure of the country that includes people of different cultures. At this juncture, I would like to look back at past history. Some people think that social justice alone is the contribution of the Dravidian movement. State Autonomy is also the contribution of the movement. In 02.10.1918, the late T.M. Nair spoke in both houses of the England Parliament. It is he who gave a call for language-based states in 1917. He also held that federalism would succeed only with the distribution of powers to states.

I now think about leaders like the late Dr.Nair who first spoke for decentralization of powers. Over 100 years have passed since he made that call. But still we are talking about the rights of States. Arignar Anna, during the discussion of the Financial Bill on 15.07.1967 said the existing relations between the Union Government and the State Governments, whichever parties were ruling, should be changed. If it was necessary to amend the Constitution, it should be done. There should be no hesitation. For that we should appoint a commission. I had been insisting on a commission in the past, I insist on it now also. I really wonder at the forethought of Arignar Anna.

I also think about Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, who appointed a committee headed by Rajamannar to study the relationship between the Union and the State Governments without affecting the unity of the country, on 22.09.1969. A copy of the Rajamannar report was sent to then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on 27.05.1971. In her reply, Mrs. Gandhi said, "There are important issues and we intend to consult all the Chief Ministers''. I am really proud of the letter received on 22.06.1971 was found in the Assembly records. To top it all, a resolution on State Autonomy was introduced in this House on 16.04.1974 and adopted on 20.04.1974. I am really proud to see the long history of this house in this regard.

The resolution in particular, said that the report was for creating a truly federal set up at the Centre and autonomous States. It said that for implementing the Rajamannar committee report, the Constitution should be amended. That resolution was moved by our leader, Dr.Kalaignar. Not only the States, why should the Union Government be chained with so many powers. The answer to the long-pending question is the resolution moved by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar and I am really proud to think about his foresightedness at this juncture.

On that day, Dr.Kalaignar said the lamp lit by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the Indian political arena should glow. That is what we expect today. By adopting the NEET Abolition Bill, we are lighting another lamp. Even though the DMK was in the Opposition and the AIADMK was in power, we supported the NEET Exemption Bill and passed it unanimously on 01.02.2017.

That Bill was not given assent by the Hon'ble President of India and kept in abeyance for 27 months. Finally it was returned. At that time itself the Bill should have been sent for the second time. We missed the opportunity. I don't want to talk about those issues now and it is not necessary either. In this circumstance, the DMK has come to power again in the State and we set up a committee with retired High Court Judge, Justice A.K.Rajan as Chairman. Based on his recommendation we adopted a resolution against NEET on 13.09.2021. What is the power of the Governor as per the Constitution? I would like to quote here the Sarkaria Commission Report on Centre-State relations.

To protect the interest of the State Government in enacting laws on subjects in the Concurrent List, Section 254 (1) has been created

in the Constitution. When the State Government enacts a Bill for a law that differs from a Union Government Law, the Council of Ministers of the State Government can advise the Governor to send the Bill to the President. If the State Cabinet makes such a request, the Governor has to obey immediately.

If the State enacts a law as per Section 254 (1) of the Constitution, then under Section 200 of the Constitution, the Governor must abide by the advice of the Council of Ministers.

The Governor should not reject the Bill sent by the Council of Ministers even if it differs from his own opinion; he has to act as per the advice of the Ministers. This was what Dr. Kalaignar did in 2006 when he was the Chief Minister for abolishing the entrance test to professional courses.

Based on the powers vested on us, we adopted the Bill against NEET and sent it to the Governor on 13.09.2021. It was the Constitutional duty of the Governor to forward the Bill to the President. I believed that the Governor would fulfil his constitutional duty. Like me, you also expected the Governor to forward Bill to the President for his assent. It is the duty of the Governor to do that. But as he failed to perform his constitutional duty, I myself insisted upon it with the Governor several times. Senior Minister Thiru. Durai Murugan also met the Governor and insisted upon it. Our MPs handed over the petition to the office of the President as they did not get an appointment. MPs belonging to Opposition parties, including the AIADMK , met the Hon'ble Union Minister personally and appealed to him to forward the Bill to the President. At this juncture, the Hon'ble Governor returned the Bill asking the Assembly to reconsider the Bill. As the Governor had questioned the power of the elected Assembly under Art. 254(1), I convened an all-party meeting on 05.02.2022 (Saturday) and based on the resolution adopted at the meeting, I have once again introduced the Anti-NEET Bill in the Assembly.

In 30.03.1967 Perarignar Anna, speaking on a motion of thanks on the Governor's address, said that the Governor's post itself was unnecessary. At

that time, political circles termed his observation as a mockery. Now, one section of the same political circles have come to the same conclusion. I am really happy to hear this.

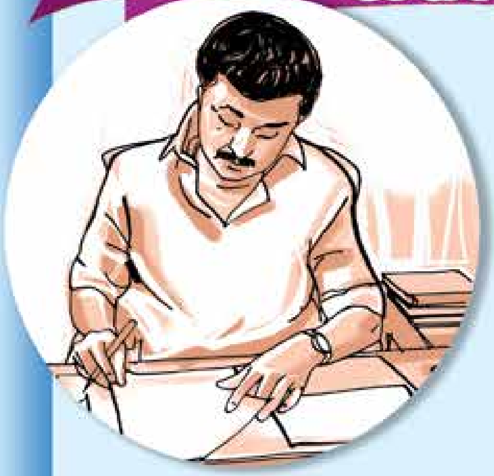
I believe the Governor will not create such a situation now. I hope that the Governor will forward the Bill adopted by the Assembly as per the Constitution to the President and thereby honour people's feelings in the interest of the students of the State. To protect the interest of oppressed, tribals, backward classes and students in villages who had been denied education for many years, I appeal to you again and again to pass the Bill.

Today is an important day towards achieving Perarignar Anna's objective of amending the Constitution to provide more powers to the States and for the call of Dr.Kalaignar for true federalism at the Union and autonomy for the States.

Introduction of the Bill by me and passing of the Bill by you, will protect the democratic rights of the country. It will prevent single type rule in the country. Sovereignty of the Assembly in enacting a law will be protected. Support for the Bill will proclaim that the Indian sub-continent belongs to people of all races. I thank the Hon'ble Speaker and the people of the State for giving me this great opportunity for creating Constitutional history.

Tamil Nadu Vaazhga, Tamil Nadu Vaazhga and Tamil Nadu Vaazhga.

Unfolding pages in the diary of a People's Chief Minister



Message of the Hon'ble
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. M.K. Stalin on
13.01.2022 *(English Translation)*

My loving greetings to all countrymen:

I took over as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on May 7 with your directive.

At that time I took the vow that I shall serve as the Chief Minister not only for the people who voted for me but also for those who failed to vote for me.

Immediately after taking charge, I put my signature for implementing 5 important assurances I had given to the people.

- My first signature was payment of Rs. 4,000 to all rice card-holders who has lost their livelihood due to the Corona Pandemic. Of this Rs. 2,000 was to be given before the end of May.
- My second signature was for a Government order reducing the price of Aavin milk by Rs. 3 per litre.
- My third signature was to permit women to travel free in the Government-owned town buses.
- My fourth signature was for taking action against the petitions that I had received from the public during my election tours; under the Chief Minister in your Constituency scheme, a separate Department was created.
- My fifth signature was to reduce the financial burden of Corona-affected patients undergoing treatment in the private hospitals, by the Government of Tamil Nadu paying their medical fees through its insurance scheme.

Like this, I can go on listing the signatures that I signed everyday for the welfare of people. Through one signature, the Government has met the demands of crores of people and fulfilled the expectations of lakhs of people.

- During my election tour of Tamil Nadu, I had received petitions from the people with the assurance that their petitions would be cleared within 100 days. Of these petitions, grievances of about two-and-a-half lakh petitions have been cleared within 100 days.
- About 2.15 crore families received the Corona Relief of Rs.4,000 per family.
- About 2.15 crore families received 13 commodities at no cost under the Corona Relief.
- About 50 lakh people have benefited through 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' Scheme.
- Under the Illam Thedi Kalvi scheme, 80,138 Illam Thedi Kalvi Centres have been started. 1,73,792 drop out students have been enrolled again in schools.
- D.A has been increased for the benefit of 18.30 lakh Government employees, teachers and pensioners.

- Gold loans for less than 5 sovereigns have been waived for 13.50 lakh families.
- Loans to the tune of Rs. 2,000 crore have been waived for women self help groups.
- We have announced that the Government will meet the medical expenses of accident victims for the first 48 hours, whichever Nations or States in India they belong to and 4,882 accident victims have benefited.
- On the occasion of the Pongal Festival, we distributed a Pongal gift package of 21 commodities to 2.15 crore families.
- To top it all, for the daily benefit of crores of women, we have given them the right to travel free in buses.

Our functioning has ensured that welfare schemes reach beneficiaries throughout the State. The Government has implemented not only the poll promises of the DMK, but also gone beyond and ensured benefits that had not been assured. In the Governor's Address, we made 66 assurances, of which G.Os have been issued with regard to 49.

During these past 8 months, we have made 1,641 announcements through Governor's Address, Annual Budget, Agriculture Budget and Rule 110 statements. Government orders have been issued for 1,238 announcements, which means 75 per cent of them have been implemented. The rest of the announcements will be implemented soon and the same will be announced in my next address.

One thing is sure. Stalin will definitely honour his commitment. Nobody should have doubts about this. We have made our poll promises transparent by bringing out a book and anyone can check whether those promises have been met. I have one important announcement to be made to the public. We have implemented many schemes which were not announced in our election manifesto.

We are going to bring out a book on various announcements made under Rule 110 in the Legislature.

Similarly we have released a 500 page book on various announcements made by Ministers during the demands of their Departments. The proof of our work is openly available. My wish is that our administration should be transparent. That is what our leader Dr.Kalaignar taught us.

We don't make any statements just for the sake of announcement. We keep those announcements as if they were inscribed on rock and implement them. Dr.Kalaignar advised me that files should not be kept pending for a long time at any cost. I am proud to say that I clear the files as soon as they came to my table.

In the month of May, 144 files came to me, 220 files in June, 227 in July, 241 in August, 422 in September, 450 in October, and 559 in November. All these files have been cleared.

During December, of the 420 files received, 356 have been cleared. The remaining 64 files are in different stages of consultation.

In total I have received 2,683 files since I took over the administration in May. Of these, 2,619 files have been approved. One indication of good governance is quick disposal of files and the present Government is a standing example for it.

Not only this, I have directed Ministers also to clear files without keeping them pending. I am also monitoring them.

This Government is one that does not keep files pending.

At the same time, I am not a Chief Minister who just sits in office. I meet the general public, understand their feelings and solve their issues.

I inspected the Corona ward and enquired about Corona patients.

During floods and rains, I walked in knee-deep water to meet the affected people.

I visited Kancheepuram, Kanniyakumari, Thiruvallur and Tiruppur Districts.

After distributing welfare assistance to thousands of people in Thanjavur and Tiruchi, I returned to Chennai the same night. On the same night I visited various flood-affected areas in Chennai and inspected relief works and returned home at 2 after midnight. The next day, I once again visited the flood-affected areas.

I personally visited the Corona immunization camps for the public.

If there was any problem in the ration shops for the public, I inspected the shops. I myself visited various police stations to see whether the grievances of the public are being looked into. That is how Dr.Kalaignar shaped us. ‘Live with the people’, said our mentor Arignar Anna. That is how I live. I solve yesterday’s demands of people today and I realize tomorrow’s demands today because I move with people and I am with them. I work for them, I work for them, continue to work for them and am waiting to work for them.

Homage to Mozhipor Thiyagigal

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.M.K.Stalin** paid floral tribute to the portrait of Mozhipor Thiyagigal to honour language agitation heroes who sacrificed their lives for Tamil, at Gandhi Mandapam in Guindy, to honour them on the Dhinam 25.01.2022.

Death anniverasary of Uthamar Gandhi Adigal

In connection with the 75th death anniversary of Uthamar Gandhi Adigal Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. R.N. Ravi** and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** offered floral tribute to a portrait of Uthamar Gandhi Adigal placed beneath his statue, participated in the spinning yagna conducted by the Sarvodaya Sangam and in the musical programme on Gandhi Adigal at Kamarajar Salai, Chennai on 30.01.2022.

Uthamar Gandhi Adigal

"Let us take a pledge, on this death anniversary day of Uthamar Gandhi Adigal who equated people's welfare with the welfare of the Nation, to foster unity with love and brotherhood. Let us take the vow to give no room on Indian soil for the heirs of Godse and their evil thoughts."

-Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. M.K. Stalin

January 30: Martyrs Day

Pledge against untouchability

The death anniversary of Uthamar Gandhi Adigal on January 30 is observed every year as 'Martyrs Day' at the national level in memory of the exalted heroes who sacrificed their lives in the freedom struggle. On this day, a pledge to eradicate untouchability is also taken in memory of Annal Gandhi Adigal who had stated that caste discrimination and untouchability were the enemies for social development.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin**, Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary to Government and officials took a pledge, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, for the eradication of untouchability, taken in connection with the 75th death anniversary of Uthamar Gandhi Adigal, At an event at the Secretariat on 29.01.2022.

> "Achievers never lose!
> Either they win or learn!"
>
> \- Annal Gandhi Adigal

2nd day of the Tamil month 'Thai' as

'Thiruvalluvar Day'

Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar issued a Government order declaring the second day of the Tamil month 'Thai' as 'Thiruvalluvar Day' from the year 1970 by way of honoring Ayyan Thiruvalluvar, the author of 'Thirukkural', a work hailed all over the world under several names like 'Ulaga Podhumurai' (Universal Scripture), 'The Untainted Truth' and 'Divine Book', and declared that day as a holiday also.

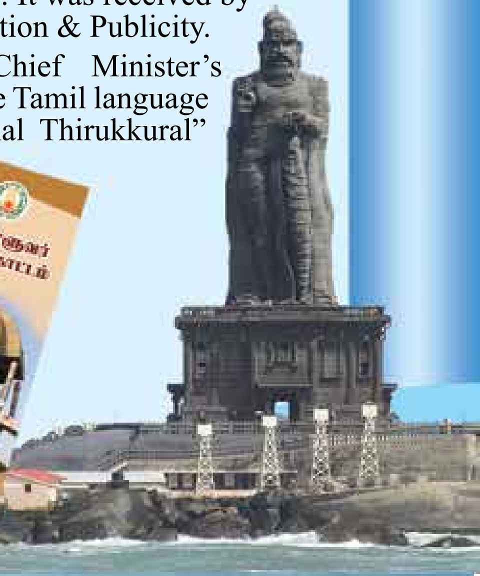
Every year, the Department of Tamil Development garlands the Thiruvalluvar statue on Thiruvalluvar Day and offers floral tribute. Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar designed and set up the Valluvar Kottam in Chennai in 1976, as a memorial to Thiruvalluvar. In the year 2000, he installed a 133-foot tall Thiruvalluvar statue in Kanniyakumari and declared it open for the benefit of people.

To apprise the students of the greatness of Thirukkural, the Government of Tamil Nadu is presenting cash prizes and commendation certificates to students who recite by rote all the 1,330 Thirukkural couplets. At present, Rs.10,000 and a certificate are given.

This year, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** showered flower petals on the Thiruvalluvar statue at Valluvar Kottam, Chennai in connection with Thiruvalluvar Day on 15.01.2022 and offered his respects.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister released a pamphlet on 'Valluvar Kottam' brought out by the Department of Information and Public Relations. It was received by the Hon'ble Minister for Information & Publicity.

Following the Hon'ble Chief Minister's directions to conduct events in the Tamil language under the name "Theera Kaadhal Thirukkural"



Release of Thirukkural calendar, Distribution of Prizes to Kuraloviyam winners

for taking Thirukkural to the present generation, the Academy proposes to conduct a variety of events with funds from the Government of Tamil Nadu. The first event conducted among them was 'Kuraloviyam', a state-level painting competition for school and college students based on themes from the Kural couplets.

The 365 best paintings selected in the competition were brought out as table calendars and the best paintings as a book compilation. The current thiruvalluvar year 2053, the second day of the Thai month, that is, on the Thiruvalluvar Day, the Hon'ble Chief Minister released the calendar and the book at Valluvar Kottam.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also distributed prizes to school and college students who captured the first three ranks in the competition and handed over certificates. The first prize carried a cash of Rs.50,000, the second Rs.30,000 and the third Rs.20,000. The winners (in the order of first, second and third) were: School level competitions – Selvi Jaikeerthana (Sindhi Model Senior Secondary school, Chennai), Selvan B. Keerthivasan (Velammal Vidyalaya, Alapakkam, Chennai) and Selvi M.S. Brinda (Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Swami Sivananda Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore); College level competitions – Thiru. V.Rajesh (Government Fine Arts College, Kumbakonam), Thiru A. Balaji (Government Fine Arts College, Kumbakonam) and Thiru. K.Rajesh (Government Fine Arts college, Chennai).

Thiru M. Balaji Prasad, a student of the Government Fine Arts College, Chennai presented a painting to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, drawn on the theme of the Thirukkural couplet: 'Vaan nokki vaazhum ulagellam mannavan kole nokki vaazhum kudi' (All earth looks up to the sky for rain; all subjects look up to the king for good rule).

Book Release

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** released the first copy of the English book 'The Adventures of Shing and Shang in Mystery Island', written by 8-year old Magizhini Elanchezhian, granddaughter of the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Thiru. Ma. Subramanian and it was received by the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Dr. K. Ponmudy. The book release took place at an event in Valluvar Kottam.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates scheme for increasing productivity of high class cotton

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** distributed inputs to 5 farmers at the Secretariat on 08.01.2022 by way of inaugurating a new scheme, 'sustainable cotton movement', for cultivating long staple cotton on 25,000 hectares of land at a cost of Rs. 11 crore in the interests of cotton, farmers, employing skills in an integrated way.

Known as 'white gold' in Tamil Nadu, the cotton crop is cultivated on an average of 1.62 lakh hectares and 3.92 lakh cotton bundles are produced with a productivity of 411 kg per hectare. With 2,000 spinning mills, Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in the country in cotton yarn production.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is taking many steps to increase the productivity and production of high class cotton and to fulfill the increasing needs of cotton spinning mills. As one more special step, this new scheme has been started.

Under this scheme, farmers can get an incentive of Rs. 60 per kg for the seeds produced for the cultivation of long and extra-long staple cotton varieties, SVPR 5, SVPR 6, CO 14, Surabhi, Suraj and CO 17, Rs. 1,300 per hectare at the rate of Rs. 130 per kg under the distribution of certified cotton seeds scheme, Rs. 500 per hectare for purchase of pulse seeds for inter-cropping cultivation amidst cotton crops, Rs. 950 per hectare for cotton micro-nutrients and liquid bio-fertilizers, Rs. 6,500 per hectare for inputs for integrated insecticides, Rs. 47,000 per power weeder and Rs. 5,000 per hectare for application of neem oil cake to control beetle.

Priority will be given to interested small and micro farmers, women farmers, Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribe farmers. The scheme aims to increase cotton cultivation in Tamil Nadu to 1.70 lakh hectares, cotton productivity from 380 kg to 430 kg per hectare and production to 4.30 lakh bundles.

Sugarcane production incentive to 91,120 farmers

The Union Government is fixing the fair and remunerative price (FRP) for the sugarcane every year. To incentivize sugarcane farmers, the Government of Tamil Nadu is giving an additional amount over and above the FRP.

The Tamil Nadu Government's incentive to sugarcane farmers for the year 2021-2022 comes to Rs. 192.50 per tonne – Rs. 42.50 as incentive and Rs. 150 as special incentive as per the exclusive agriculture budget's statement. Along with the Union Government's fair and remunerative price of Rs. 2,707.50 per tonne, the Tamil Nadu sugarcane farmers who have registered with sugar mills will get Rs. 2,900 per tonne for the cane crushing period of 2020-2021.

In the crushing period of 2020-2021, 91,120 farmers have supplied 78,38,000 metric tonnes of sugarcane to two public sector, 15 co-operative and 17 private sector sugar mills. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** inaugurated the distribution of the incentive and special incentive amount of Rs. 150.89 crore to these 91,120 eligible farmers on 08.01.2022 at the Secretariat by distributing it, to 5 cane farmers.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates 66 completed schemes worth Rs.104.81 crore for Erode District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, at the Secretariat on 10.01.2022, inaugurated through video-conferencing, 66 completed schemes, worth Rs.104.81 crore, laid foundation stones for 365 new schemes to be executed at a cost of Rs. 45.15 crore and distributed welfare assistance worth Rs.209.76 crore to 40,095 beneficiaries in Erode District.

Addressing on the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu said:

Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Thiru.S.Muthusamy, who is presiding over the function, the Hon'ble Minister for Information & Publicity Thiru. M.P. Saminathan, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Dr.K.Ponmudy, Thiru. Anthiyur Selvaraj, MP, Thiru. Ganeshamurthy, MP, Tmt.C.K.Saraswathi, MLA, Thiru. A.G.Venkatachalam, MLA and Thiru. Thirumagan, MLA, Chief Secretary, Dr. V.Irai Anbu I.A.S., District Collector Thiru.Krishnanunni I.A.S., who welcomed the gathering and Additional Collector Thiru. Madhubalan I.A.S., who is to propose the vote of thanks, beneficiaries of the welfare schemes, who are witnessing the function through video conferencing from various places, due to Corona restriction, and dear siblings of Kalaignar, who is my very life. At the outset my hearty welcome to all of you.

This function is held through video conferencing to inaugurate completed schemes and to lay the foundation stone for new schemes along with the distribution of the welfare assistance to various beneficiaries in Erode District.

The Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Thiru. S.Muthusamy, belonging to Erode District, has successfully organized the function. Normally, the Hon'ble Minister would do more things than expected. Though he is experienced in various fields, he is in no way behind the youth in competing with them.

If not for Corona, Hon'ble Minister Thiru. Muthusamy would have organized a bigger meeting for this function. I would have also participated in that function personally. Unfortunately, restrictions of Corona have prevented such an opportunity.

But the lives of people are much more important. This is well known to Thiru. Muthusamy, to me and to others also. I think it is not necessary to explain the issue further. But I am confident that the incidence of Corona will come down soon in future, enabling me to come to Erode and meet you in person.

Erode is the birthplace of the Dravidian movement. It is here that Thanthai Periyar was born. Our mentor Anna lived here. It is here that Kalaignar had his 'Gurukulam'.

That is why Erode is always in our hearts. I am honoured to participate in a function in Erode through video-conferencing, after the formation of the DMK Government in the State.

I am dedicating 66 schemes in the District, which were completed at a cost of Rs. 104 crore. Similarly, foundation stones have been laid for 365 new schemes to be executed at a cost of Rs. 45 crore. Significant among them is the road from Kathiripatti Forest border to Esalankadu in Bargur Panchayat in Anthiyur Taluk, which is one of the long-pending demands of the tribal people. Foundation stone for five check dams in Paiyyanapuram Panchayat in Thalavadi Division at a cost of Rs. 1.29 crore, has been laid.

On behalf of various Government Departments, welfare assistance to the tune of Rs. 20,976.71 lakh is to be distributed to 40,095 beneficiaries.

We are unable to organize the function at one place due to Corona restrictions. But the beneficiaries from different places will receive the assistance at their places through people's representatives and Government officials. Officials have been directed to monitor whether all beneficiaries have received the assistance. There should not be any slackness in the distribution.

Already, there are 550 beds in the Erode Government Medical College Hospital in Perundurai. Due to efforts to increase the bed strength, 401 beds through Rotary Club, 180 beds with the participation of 'Shining Erode' Industrialists and members of the public, through 'Fiscal' 80 beds and 100 more additional beds in the existing building have been added. I am happy to announce that this hospital now has 1,311 beds.

Similarly, at the Perundurai Government Medical College Hospital campus, construction of COVID Hospital has been completed. This hospital was created in 45 days at a cost of Rs. 20 crore with 401 beds. I heartily congratulate Rotary Clubs in Erode District for supporting this task.

I extend my sincere thanks, greetings and congratulation, to Rotary Health Care Trust Administrative Director Dr.E.K.Sahadevan, Trust President Thiru. S.Senguttuvan, Rotary District Governor Shanmugasundaram and other members of the Trust.

For the Corona patients, Shining Erode Foundation has given financial assistance. Along with it, Amaithi Poonga Trust and Kongu Educational Trust, have also extended assistance for constructing hospital complex, medicine storage complex and medical oxygen manufacturing unit. I appreciate their philanthropy.

Erode Municipality was upgraded as Erode Corporation in 2008 and functions as an extended Corporation from 2011. It has 109.52 sq.km area. I would like to announce through this meeting that a massive transport development plan has been planned for the convenience of the travelling public.

In this scheme, it has been planned to set up three bus stands, that is, a bus stand at Perundurai and two bus stands on the outskirts of Erode.

Steps are being taken to set up a new bus-stand at Solar. From this bus stand, buses to Madurai, Tiruchi, Karur, and Palani via Vellakovil will be operated.

It has been planned to set up one more bus-stand from Sakthi Road. From this bus-stand, buses to Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Ooty and Karnataka side will be operated.

I would like to make one important announcement at this function.

Chikkaiah Naicker College was started by Thanthai Periyar in 1954. This college offers 11 undergraduate courses and 3 post-graduate courses. Over 1,400 students are studying in this college. This college is under the direct control of the Government with the Joint Director of the Kovai Regional Collegiate Education as its

CareTaker. There has been a demand for over 20 years to take over the college by the Government. I am happy to announce at this function, that the Government is to take over the college.

This Government has been conducting functions in all Districts for inaugurating completed schemes, laying foundations for new schemes and distributing welfare measures to people. Such functions will continue in all Districts.

So far, I have personally participated and inaugurated 185 Government schemes worth Rs. 714 crore, laid foundation stones for 190 new schemes to be executed at a cost of Rs.339.86 crore and distributed welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.3,642 crore to 8,18,835 beneficiaries.

Today, this function is held at Erode. Similar functions will be organized in other Districts. I would like to inform you all that it is not a Government function but a people's function. I say this with pride.

This Government, formed by you, is executing various activities and looking after your welfare. I have dedicated myself to the people.

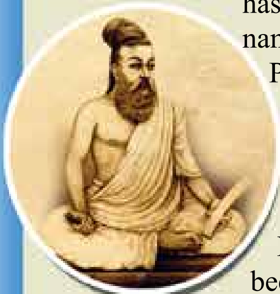
In the Governor's address to the Assembly on the 5th of last month, he appreciated various welfare schemes of the Government. He said that I have been doing public service right from the day I took charge. This was how Kalaignar trained us. Kalaignar used to tell us how he was trained by Thanthai Periyar. He used to say often that Periyar trained us like an elephant training its baby elephant. In a similar manner, Kalaignar trained us. He shaped us in a way that we feel distressed whenever people suffer. We are serving the people in this manner.

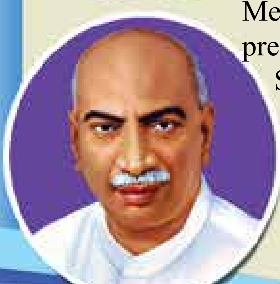
At present, we are trying to provide social justice not only to Tamil Nadu but to the entire Nation. Due to our legal efforts 27 per cent reservation has been made possible for the OBCs throughout the country, thanks to the recent Supreme Court judgement. This is sweet news to OBC students throughout India.

I consider the Supreme Court's Judgement, at this juncture, as a victory dedicated to Periyar. Time has come when the social justice created by him has been accepted by the Supreme Court. There is no other better service than this for Periyar.

My life-time ambition is to make Tamil Nadu have all resources and wealth and to work for State autonomy and social justice for all States throughout the Country. This ambitious journey will continue till I achieve it. I extend my New Year and Pongal greetings to all those who have participated in the conference and who worked for the success of the conference. With these words I conclude my speech.

Thiruvalluvar and Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Awards





The Government of Tamil Nadu has instituted annual awards in the names of Saint Thiruvalluvar and Perunthalaivar Kamarajar. The Thiruvalluvar Award is given to a person who propagates the ethical values of the Thirukkural as a mission. In this connection, Thiru. M. Meenakshi Sundaram (78) has been selected for the Award. Thiru. Meenakshi Sundaram was a former president of the Bangalore Tamil Sangam and was also responsible for declaring open the Thiruvalluvar statue in Bangalore under the presidentship of Dr.Kalaignar. He worked as a senior engineer in the Indian Telephone Industries and was a native of Tiruchirappalli. Thiru.M. Meenakshi Sundaram has been selected for the 2022 Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Award.

Similarly, an award has been instituted in honour of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar. The Award has been given to Sollin Selvar Dr. Kumari Anandan (88) for the year 2021. Dr. Kumari Ananthan was closely associated with Perunthalaivar Kamarajar and is a senior political leader in the State. He was also a member of the Lok Sabha and the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. He is a Tamil scholar, a very good orator and has written many books. He is a multi-faceted Tamil personality.

The Award consists of a cash prize of Rs one lakh, citation, a shawl and a gold medallion of one sovereign. The Hon'ble Chief Minister will hand over the award to the Awardees at a function on 15.01.2022.

Hon'ble Chief Minister unveils action plan for business incubation

'Tamil Nadu looks for startups from all levels of society'

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.M.K.Stalin**, inaugurated the 14th ISBACON conference at Pazhavanthangal in Chennai on 10.01.2022 and released an action plan for the development of startup industries.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said:

Hon'ble Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Industries, Thiru. T. M.Anbarasan, Secretary of MSME Department, Thiru. Arun Roy I.A.S., Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce, Tmt. Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan I.A.S., President of ISBACON Thiru. Dr.K.Sureshkumar, Chairman of the Startup India Seed Fund Committee of the Union Government, Dr.H.K.Mittal, Dr.A.Balachandran, who is to propose the vote of thanks, high Government officials, Industrialists and entrepreneurs from various parts of the country, friends from the print and visual media, my warm welcome to all of you.

First of all, I extend my warm welcome and thanks to all the office-bearers of Indian STEPs and Business Incubators Association (ISBA).

I am extremely happy that the ISBACON - 2022 conference is being held in Chennai. On behalf of Tamil Nadu and as the Chief Minister of the State, I welcome you all.

First of all, I thank the office-bearers for inviting me to inaugurate the annual conference. At the same time, I extend my new year wishes to all of you.

Before beginning my speech, I would like to register my feelings here. The conference will definitely achieve the purpose for which it has been organized; I have no doubt about it. I would like to give the reasons for my impression. A starting time is mentioned for any Government function, public function or party conference. With a few exceptions, these functions normally start a good half an hour or one hour later than the scheduled time. But here, the conference

began 10 minutes earlier than the scheduled time of 10 am. This shows that you will achieve what you have set out to even earlier than scheduled.

In this function three action plans have been released:

- action plan for incubation Tamil Nadu
- distributed network of incubator models to support the innovators and startups during challenging times and CSR support for incubators.

These reports should not just be on paper but create significant impact on the ground.

I extend my greetings and felicitations to Thiru. H.K.Mittal, Thiru. R.M.P.Jawahar and Thiru. K.Sureshkumar, who are responsible for the success of startup industries in the country.

I consider participating in your conference an opportunity to share some of the thoughts of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is a State that is in the forefront in education, economics, industrial growth and culture. One significant strength of the State is that it is a knowledge capital, thanks to its youth. There are many number of educational institutions which create youth of high intellectual ability.

Recent statistics show that 30 out of 100 premier educational institutions in the country are in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu is ahead in technical knowhow and entrepreneurship.

The slackness in the formation of startup industries and entrepreneur development in the last few years in the State has been removed and we were making efforts to make it the number one State in the world for startups

Through the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM), we are taking constructive measures in that direction.

Through this movement, so far incentive has been disbursed for 29 new industries. I assure you that these numbers will increase considerably in the coming years. Only through business incubators like you, these schemes are implemented. Action plans are being prepared to improve the standard of startups to the international level, to set up sufficient numbers of startups in the Districts and new industrial parks.

In the last year alone, about 1.8 billion US dollars have been invested in 60 companies in the State.

Similarly, we have planned to attract your attention in the fields of aerospace and electric vehicles.

The State is also in the forefront in attracting investments in second and third tier cities apart from Chennai, by higher income groups and individual investors.

I am confident that in the coming days, Tamil Nadu will become the start up investors' goldmine.

It is my wish that our thoughts, actions, targets and planning should be such that our horizons become wider. We should not be content with our present position and earlier achievements. We should observe other nations march towards the future and act accordingly.

Our progress was confined only to particular types of industries. I do not blame it. At the same time, our thoughts should be directed towards new industries also. Already, the fourth industrial revolution has started. Artificial intelligence and other production methods have brought changes in all fields.

Now, technology has expanded in the field of automatic vehicles, tele-medicine, 3-D printing, genetic revolution and virtual reality.

In the present environment of the COVID pandemic, the functioning of industries has completely changed. The attitude of industries and their ways of reaching the public has changed. Industrialists will have to sharpen their skills and change their attitudes.

Technology serves as the important factor in determining the world's future trends. As Yuval Nova Harrari says in his book '21 lessons for the 21st century', we must ponder on whether we have understood the world we have created. This is not merely a philosophical or political question. It is a question that each one of us should ponder and act upon.

You have to adjust yourself to the new environment. The present Government is adaptable to the changed circumstances.

We welcome big industries. At the same time, we also give importance to micro, small and medium industries. We measure industrial development not only on the financial scale but also on the scale of social justice.

This Government has the strength and self-confidence to test alternative methods of thinking.

This Government has the courage and self-confidence for investing in new fields and startup industries. Besides, we encourage startups that function independently with creative ideas.

Way back in 1996 the then DMK Government, led by Muthamizh Arignar introduced the computer revolution. The 25-year-old TIDEL Park at Taramani is testimony to this. Realizing that computers alone can provide jobs to the youth, the then Chief Minister Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar launched the computer revolution.

Gone are the days when we created software for foreign countries. Today we have created a situation where foreign countries are purchasing our products. This they say is the SaaS revolution. This is the DMK's revolution.

In the sphere of service software, Chennai has become an international centre. A firm which was recently formed in Chennai created a revolution in the American stock market. Through technology, our youth have made the world turned back and look at us in the areas of Fintech, Edutech, Mediatech and Healthtech. We should not rest on our oars but prepare ourselves for the next challenge.

I have taken a vow to take the State's GDP to one trillion US dollars by the year 2030. To achieve this ambitious target, thousands of startups should be developed. Such startups should score victories in the local and international markets. These startups should provide employment to lakhs of youth. I envisage such growth.

Our growth should include all areas and all people in the State without affecting the environment. Only such growth is wholesome growth. To achieve such growth, we should create a new environment.

We should create new industrial experts and score victories through them. These experts should rise from all social levels of the State.

Human resource is the basic investment for development. Both entrepreneurs and industrial experts create this environment. Thoughts create excellence and men spur that change.

The purpose of the TANSIM is to find such industrial experts and entrepreneurs and encourage them.

The Government will definitely support startups and new entrepreneurs who want to start new industries in the State. I am happy to declare open the 14th conference of the ISBACON at this juncture. I take leave of you and once again wish you happy new year as well as festival greetings for the Tamil month of 'Thai'.

Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award

The Tamil language, known for its antiquity and literary richness was declared a Classical Language by the Union Government in 2004 on account of the strenuous efforts of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar. He dreamt that a research institute should be set up exclusively for Tamil. To realize that dream, the Union Government was constantly pressured, resulting in the setting up of an institute for the classical language in 2006 as a part of the Central Institute of Indian Languages. Later in 2008, the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) was set up in Chennai as an autonomous body.

On the 16.586 acres of land allotted by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu at Perumbakkam, Chennai for the CICT, a building has been constructed for the Institute at a cost of Rs. 24.65 crore and it was declared open by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 12.01.2022 through video conferencing.

Considering the importance of the CICT, Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar set up a 'Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Research Trust' at the Institute by creating a fixed deposit on 24.07.2008 for Rs. 1 crore from his own funds.

This Trust presents every year the 'Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award' that carries the highest prize money in the country of Rs. 10 lakh, a citation and a bronze statue of Kalaignar Karunanidhi.

The Award is given to a scholar whose contribution to Classical Tamil Research in the fields of archaeology, stone inscriptions, numismatics, literature, linguistics, creative literature, comparative literature, translation and fine arts, is the best.

The first award for the year 2009 - was given by the Hon'ble President of India to the Finland scholar Prof. Asko Parpola at the World Classical Tamil Conference held at Coimbatore on June 23, 2010.

For 10 years from 2010 to 2019 – the award was not presented to anyone.

Now, after the Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin took over, measures for the development of CICT have been revived. The 8th meeting of the Board of Governance of the Institute took place on 30.08.2021 with the Hon'ble Chief Minister presiding. The meeting endorsed the list of awardees, missed for the years 2010 to 2019.

Accordingly, the following awardees were honoured by the Hon'ble Chief Minister with the prize money of Rs. 10 lakh, citation and a bronze statue of Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi at the award presentation function held at the Anna Centenary Library, Chennai on 22.01.2022.

The awardees were:

- Prof. Pon Kothandaraman, former Vice-Chancellor of University of Madras (2011);
- Prof. E. Sundaramoorthy, former Vice-chancellor of Tamil University (2012);
- Prof. P. Marudhanayagam, former Director of Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture & former Registrar of Pondicherry University (2013);
- Prof. K. Mohanarasu (former Professor/Chairman, Thirukkural Research Centre, University of Madras, (2014);
- Prof. Maraimalai Ilakkuvanar, former Tamil Professor, Presidency College, Chennai (2015);
- Prof. K. Rajan, former Professor of History, Pondicherry University (2016);
- Kavignar Erode Thamizhanban former Professor of Tamil, New College (2018) and
- Prof. K. Sivamani, former Principal, Karanthai Pulavar College, Thanjavur & Thiruvalluvar College, Tirunelveli (2019).

As Dr. V.S. Rajam, senior lecturer, Department of South Asia Regional Studies, University of Pennsylvania, USA and Prof. Ulrich Nicholas, Professor and Head of the Institute of Indology and Tamil Studies, Cologne University, Germany, selected for the award for the years 2010 and 2017 respectively could not attend the function, the awards for them will be presented on a later date.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the function *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources Thiru. Durai Murugan, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Dr. Ponmudy,

Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture, Archaeology Thiru. Thangam Thenarasu who has successfully organised this function well.

Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Thiru. Ma. Subramanian, Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Members of Legislative Assembly, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., Vice-Chairman of CICT, Prof. E. Sundaramoorthy, Director of CICT

Prof. R. Chandrasekaran, the team of Judges who selected the awardees, Tamil Scholars,

High officials of the Government, Newspaper and Media Friends,

I wish to convey my affectionate greetings to all of you.

I stand on this dais savouring in my heart the lines of Puratchi Kavignar Bharathidasan - "Thamizhukkum amudhendru paer - andha thamizh Inba Thamizh engal uyirukku naer!" ('The name Tamil is synonymous with nectar; that Tamil, sweet Tamil is our very life').

It is a century-old dream of Tamil scholars that Tamil should be elevated and ranked as a classical language. It is our Leader of Tamil Race Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar who achieved it.

We are celebrating as a festival, the distribution of research awards on classical Tamil named after such a great leader Kalaignar and that too in the auditorium of this Library named after Perarignar Anna.

I stand here, carrying the memory of two great stalwarts who had served Tamil as elder and younger brothers.

It is not that the world needs to know about the antiquity of Tamil through Tamils asserting the fact. Scholars of linguistics and anthropology all over the world say it. It is a great fact, accepted by archaeologists.

Tamil is not a language of a particular region, it is the symbol of a culture. It is a language that has defined landscapes of land, Nature, the people and culture.

It is sweet to speak in Tamil, it is sweet to hear Tamil, the word Tamil itself is sweet. The very meaning of Tamil is sweetness.

Pingala Nigandum also says 'inimaiyum neermaiyum Tamil enal aagum' ("Tamil means sweetness and expressiveness")

Tamil is one of the ancient languages of the world. It is not a subordinate language borrowed from others. On the other hand, many languages have evolved from Tamil.

Our mother tongue Tamil has the capacity to create many such languages. Our race has the desire to name persons after the language itself as 'Thamizh', 'Thamizharasi' and 'Thamizharasan'. Our Tamil language has also produced language martyrs.

Tamil scholars asked that the Tamil language be declared as a classical language for its rich grammar and literature. Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar is one who made that dream come true.

On October 14, 2004, during the Congress regime, the Union Government declared Tamil as a Classical language. In its footsteps, the then Union Government set up the CICT on August 18, 2007.

Initially, this Institute functioned as a part of the Central Institute of Indian Languages in Mysore. It was shifted to Chennai on May 19, 2008.

Its name was also changed at that time as the Central Institute of Classical Tamil. The person behind that was our Leader of the Tamil race, Dr. Kalaignar.

The CICT office was declared open at Palar House on Kamarajar Salai, Chennai Marina on June 30, 2008 by Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar.

He desired a separate building for the classical Tamil institute. For that, he handed over 16 acres of land at Perumbakkam on November 5, 2007. We handed over the land after levelling it up at a cost of Rs. 1.45 crore.

The Union Government has set up a massive building on that land at a cost of Rs. 24.65 crore and it was declared open by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on last 12.01.2022.

The event was conducted through video conferencing. When it was held in my presence, I pointedly stated: "The Hon'ble Prime Minister has declared open the CICT's new building. For that, I thank him on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, the Government and on my own behalf. Thalaivar Kalaignar would have been very happy if he were alive today. He would have mentioned that, it is a matter of happiness that this sort of honour has been bestowed on Tamil during the Pongal Festival of Tamils".

Later, I visited the Institute at Perumbakkam with the Minister for Tamil Development Thangam Thenarasu. Truly, the Institute is functioning in a very excellent manner. I wish to thank, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, all those who have toiled from the beginning to this day for its progress.

The CICT has prioritized 41 works for research.

- Though the main function of the Institute is to do research on the literary and grammatical works that had evolved between remote antiquity and 6th century A.D., it pays special attention on Tamil linguistics and on its development.
- It considers its prime purpose as doing research on the antiquity of Tamil, its uniqueness and its continuity of heritage.
- It is honouring those who have made notable contributions to the research.

Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar gave Rs. One crore from his own funds to the CICT on July 24, 2008, for setting up a Trust under the name 'Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Trust'. He wanted worthy Tamil scholars to be honoured with awards on behalf of this Trust.

The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh, the highest ever in India, a citation and a memento embossed with his figure.

The first award was presented to Prof. Asko Parpola of Finland by the then President of India at the World Classical Tamil Conference held at Coimbatore on June 23, 2010. The presentation of the award should have been continued by the successive Governments. I don't want to politicize the issue by dwelling on it on this dais.

Since the according of

acclaim and respect to Tamil and Tamil scholars got politicised, these awards were not presented from 2011 to 2019. After the DMK Government came to power, the awardees were selected.

If not for anything else, I am proud to say the DMK regime has flowered again for presenting awards to Tamil scholars.

- The DMK that works for Tamil always, has implemented many schemes for the development of Tamil whenever it assumed power. To make particular mention:
- It is the DMK Government that named our State Tamil Nadu.
- It is the DMK Government that established 'Thamizhthaai vazhthu' and made it the state song.
- The DMK took Tamil to the global level by conducting World Tamil Conferences. This started under the leadership of Perarignar Anna and continues up to the World Classical Tamil Conference now.
- It was in the DMK's rule that statues for Pulavars of yore like Ayyan Valluvar and Avvaiyar and statues of foreign Tamil scholars like Caldwell and G.U. Pope were installed.
- Again, it is the DMK Government that has given reservation, under the norm of social justice, to Tamil medium students in higher education.
- It was in DMK's rule that a 'kottam' for Thiruvalluvar in Chennai and a 133 feet high statue for him in Kanniyakumari were set up, forcing the world to look at it with wonder.
- Even as Tamil travelled from palm leaves to books, the DMK Government took the initiative to take it to the internet in 1999 itself by conducting a Digital conference for Tamil, setting up a Virtual Academy and digitized Tamil so that any one in any part of the world could study Tamil grammar and Tamil literature.

Like this, I can give a long list.

- I wish to make some announcements as a continuation of the services rendered by the DMK regime to the Tamil language.
- The Medavakkam, Sholinganallur Link Road where the CICT complex has been located will hereafter be known as 'Semmozhi Salai' ('Classical Language Road').
- Steps will be taken to create 'Classical Tamil Language Chairs' in 5 universities in the South East Asian countries in the first phase in a bid to popularize the greatness of the classical Tamil language.

The CICT has undertaken many important schemes to add to the richness of Tamil. The Government of Tamil Nadu will always support the Institute for the achievement of its goals.

I heartily congratulate the awardees and greet them. The CICT gains in prestige through the presentation of awards to you. I am also proud of this, the Government of Tamil Nadu too is proud.

I am duty-bound to request you to continue various constructive activities for the Tamil language so that it becomes more eminent.

Our Tamil language has the capacity to be more ancient than antiquity and more modern than modernity.

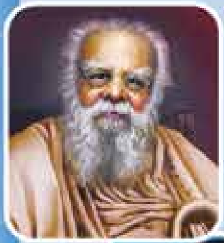
Research on this language should not stop with Tamil Nadu, it should not stop with the borders of India but extend worldwide. Our research should encompass the norms of world linguistics.

It has become a worldwide tradition to describe a language as a culture. World renowned intellectuals like Noam Chomsky have started saying that language is one of the mental organs. He says: 'There is a language faculty in the child's brain. This is unique to humanity'.

Puratchi Kavignar Bharathidasan said long back: “Tamil engal illamaikku paal” (Tamil is the nourishment to our youthfullness).

Your research should not merely be intellectual but reflect (people’s) sentiments too. In this manner, the CICT will certainly turn into an institute sought after by linguistic scholars of the world. I request that the Institute should stand high in such a way.

Our Government that marches ahead with Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar’s vision on the path, “Engum Tamil Edhilum Tamil” (Tamil Everywhere; Tamil in Everything) shown by Perarignar Anna, will continue to raise its voice to elevate Tamil further as official language and court language. With this statement, I take leave of you, hailing ‘Tamil Vazhga! Semmozhi Tamil Vazhga!.



Thanthai Periyar Award, Ambedkar Award announced

The Government of Tamil Nadu has instituted an annual award in the name of Thanthai Periyar and it is given every year to those who work for Social Justice. Thiru. K.Thirunavukkarasu has been selected for the Award for the year 2021 by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Thiru. Thirunavukkarasu is a researcher into the Dravidian movement and a writer.

The Government has also instituted an award in the name of Dr. Ambedkar and it is given every year to those who work for development of Adi Dravidar and Tribal people. For the year 2021, Justice K.Chandru, a retired High Court Judge, has been selected for the Award.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister has announced that the cash prize for these Awards, which was Rs. one lakh, has been enhanced to Rs. 5 lakh from this year.

Thiru. K.Thirunavukkarasu, who has been selected for the Thanthai Periyar Award for Social Justice, is considered a walking encyclopaedia on the Dravidian movement. He has penned the history of the Justice Party from the year 1916 to 1944 in two volumes. His other books in Tamil include ‘The Roots of Dravidian Movement’ and ‘The Pillars of Dravidian Movement’. His works have been acclaimed by Tamil scholars. It is to be recalled that in the year 2006, he was awarded the Thiru.Vi.Ka Award by the Government of Tamil Nadu by the then Chief Minister, Dr.Kalaignar .

Justice K.Chandru, who has been selected for the Dr.Ambedkar Award, is a retired High Court Judge from Madras High Court. During his tenure, he created a record by disposing of 96,000 cases. Earlier, he was a criminal and civil lawyer and served as the voice of the poor and oppressed people. He was appointed as Additional Justice of the Madras High Court on July 31, 2006 and elevated as permanent Judge on November 9, 2009.

Various judgments of Justice Chandru reflect his concern for the oppressed people. Through his judgments against caste differences and against the denial of the rights of the oppressed, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, he earned a name among them. ‘My judgments in the light of Ambedkar’, ‘En Vazhakkai Gavani’ and ‘Oru Penn Neethi Mandrathai Anugiyapodhu’ are some of his books. It is noteworthy that his work is based on his travels throughout Tamil Nadu, living with marginalized people and understanding Tamil society and its manifold dimensions.

11 Government Medical Colleges at a cost of Rs.4,080 crore in Tamil Nadu

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi** declared open from New Delhi on 12.01.2022 through video conferencing, 11 Government medical colleges, set up at a cost of Rs. 4,080 crore in Tamil Nadu and the building for the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, constructed at a cost of Rs. 24.65 crore at Perumbakkam, Chennai. Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. R.N. Ravi,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** and the Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya were present.

Family welfare is one index to assess state development. It is not just the structures available for the health sector or the human resources. It includes the steps taken to upgrade the lifestyle of the people of the state in the field of health. To make available public health and health frameworks even to the extremely downtrodden people, Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar implemented many schemes like 'Kannoli thittam' (cataract operation), '108' ambulance service, medical insurance scheme, 'Varumun kappom' scheme and setting up medical colleges with Government Hospital in Districts that don't have a medical college.

Likewise, the Government of Tamil Nadu, headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin, besides implementing many schemes for family welfare, like 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' (Treatment at Doorstep) and 'Innuyir Kappom, - Nammai Kaakum 48' (Life Protection - Scheme 48 to protect us), is upgrading health infrastructure in Tamil Nadu. The Government is taking steps to set up a Government medical college in every District so that quality medical treatment is made available in all Districts.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India declared open through video conferencing newly constructed medical colleges in 11 Districts that do not have a Government medical college so far – Virudhunagar, Kallakurichi, The Nilgiris, Ramanathapuram, Namakkal, Tiruppur, Tiruvallur, Krishnagiri, Dindigul, Ariyalur and Nagapattinam.

The additional medical seats made available for the undergraduate MBBS seats through these newly set up 11 Government medical colleges, are 1,450. In these Government medical colleges and hospitals, 11,200 posts for medical experts and staff have been newly created. Nearly one-and-a-half crore people in these Districts and surrounding places will benefit from the availability of quality medical treatment.

Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT):

On account of the great efforts of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, the Union Government announced the Tamil language, the most ancient language in the world with both lexical and literary wealth, as a Classical Language on 14.10.2004. In its continuation, the Central Institute of Classical Tamil was inaugurated by Muthamizh Arignar on 18.08.2007.

The CICT has given priority for research on 41 Tamil works. Mandated to do research on the literary and grammatical works that developed between the most ancient period and 6th A.D., this institute is paying special attention to Tamil linguistics and its development. This Institute

has, as its main aim, research on the antiquity, uniqueness and continuity of heritage of the Tamil language and their preservation.

Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar handed over 16.586 acres of land in Perumbakkam, Chennai, to the CICT in 2007 when he was Chief Minister. The Hon'ble Prime Minister declared open the building constructed for the Institute on that land at a cost of Rs. 24.65 crore.

The CICT building is constructed on an area of about 70,000 sq.ft and has a ground and three floors. In the ground floor, library and seminar halls are located, office rooms and digital library in the first floor and rooms for educational staff and a light-and-sound display hall in the second and third floors.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** at the event where Hon'ble Prime Minister of India declared open through video conferencing at New Delhi, 11 new Government Medical Colleges in Tamil Nadu and the new building for the Central Institute for Classical Tamil on 12.01.2022.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health, Union Ministers of State, Governor of Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble Ministers of Tamil Nadu Government, MPs and MLAs, High Officers of Union and State Governments, Staff, District Collectors and Doctors – I extend my affectionate evening greetings to all of you.

As this is the first Government function where the Hon'ble Prime Minister is participating after the regime change in Tamil Nadu, I wish to convey, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, greetings and thanks to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

I wish to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for setting aside time for this excellent event amidst his many works, keeping in mind the interests of the people of Tamil Nadu, particularly the welfare of the students.

It was the dream of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar that every District in Tamil Nadu should have a medical college.

In the DMK election manifesto of 2006, Thalaivar Kalaignar spelt out an aim under the sub-heading 'Education'. It was announced: "We will implement the aim of a medical college for every District".

During the DMK's rule in 2006, we had programmes to set up medical colleges in backward Districts. What has been achieved today is Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar's dream of "Medical Colleges in All Districts."

Today, Tamil Nadu is the forerunner to the entire nation in having the highest number of undergraduate and post graduate seats in Government medical colleges. I convey my heartfelt gratitude to the Union Government, particularly to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for providing permission, co-operation and fund allotments for this.

While thanking the Union Government for its support to these efforts of the Government of Tamil Nadu, I wish to request the continued support of your Government to ours for setting up new medical colleges in the newly created Districts.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, particularly the DMK Government has been a model for the whole country in the provision not merely of health care facilities but in the implementation of health schemes. I can make particular mention of many of Tamil Nadu Government's schemes like:

★ 'Kannoli Thittam'

★ Chief Minister's Medical Insurance Scheme.

★ Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme.

★ ‘Varumun Kappom’ scheme.

★ ‘Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam’ (Doctor at your doorstep scheme)

★ ‘Innuyir Kappom, - Nammai Kaakum 48’ (Our Protection 48 scheme)

At this juncture, I request for greater fund allocations by the Union Government for the Tamil Nadu Government’s Health Department that has framed and implemented such novel schemes.

At a time when there is a paucity of doctors in many states, the Tamil Nadu Government’s admission policy has become the basis for the excellent service of Tamil Nadu medicos in villages and Government Departments.

Our policy is to provide these opportunities to the rural poor and marginalized students. The success of the health sector of Tamil Nadu is also the outcome of this policy.

It is because this basic policy should not get affected that we continue to stress exemption for Tamil Nadu from the NEET examination.

Hence, I request the Union Government to fulfill Tamil Nadu Government’s demand in regard to the process of student admission, which is the base for human resources.

Hon’ble Prime Minister, the admission policy of Tamil Nadu plays a very important role in our health infrastructure. It is to protect this, that we have been continuously demanding NEET exemption for Tamil Nadu. I appeal to the Union Government to consider our request favourably.

On this day, the Hon’ble Prime Minister is to declare open the new building for the Institute of Classical Tamil. On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, the Government and on my own behalf I extend my thanks for that.

Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar would have been very happy if he had been alive today. It was Kalaignar who got the classical status for the Tamil language in 2004, a hundred-year-old dream of Tamils. His efforts brought about this Central Institute of Classical Tamil. I wish to thank the Union Government and the Hon’ble Prime Minister for constructing a new building for this Institute at a cost of Rs. 24.65 crore.

It is heartening that the Tamil language is honoured in this way during the Tamil festival of Pongal.

Thanking once again the Hon’ble Prime Minister for declaring open the new building of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil and the medical colleges that lay the foundation for the development of Tamil Nadu and extending the Pongal greetings to the Hon’ble Prime Minister and all others, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Audio recordings of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar in praise of Thiruvalluvar

Writer, Director Sriram Sharma, son of painter K.R. Venugopal Sharma, met Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** at the Secretariat on 13.01.2022, and handed over audio recordings of Dr.Kalaignar. These recordings were done when Dr.Kalaignar personally went to the painter’s house in 1959 and spoke in praise of Thiruvalluvar.

'Students should be involved in working of Central Institute of Classical Tamil'

The Tamil language, rich in words and literature, was given the status of Classical Language by the Union Government on October 12, 2004 due to the great efforts of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar. Following the persistent demand of Dr.Kalaignar with the Union Government for a separate independent institute for Classical Tamil, the Union Government in the year 2006 formed the Centre of Excellence of Classical Tamil as part of the Central Institute of Indian Languages at Mysore. It was due to the efforts of Dr. Kalaignar that the Institute was shifted to Chennai in 2008 and re-named 'Central Institute of Classical Tamil' as an autonomous body.

The Institute gives priority to conducting research on 41 ancient, classical Tamil works. The Institute, which has been formed to conduct research on Tamil Literature and Grammar of texts till the sixth century, also concentrates on research on the Tamil language, its development, its uniqueness, its ancient links and takes steps to protect them.

In the year 2007, the then Chief Minister Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar allotted 16.86 acres of land in Perumbakkam in Chennai, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, for the Institute. On this land, a 4- storied building, at a cost of Rs. 24.65 crore, was built for the Institute, which was declared open through video conferencing on 12.01.2022 in the presence of Chief Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin, who is also the Chairperson of the Institute.

This building has a spacious library on the ground floor with more than 45,000 old Tamil books, 2 debating halls, known as Thiruvalluvar and Tholkappiar auditoriums. In the first floor, it has rooms for academic staff and offices of the Director and Administration, in the second floor, e-library, multi-media halls, and Internet visual auditorium and in the third floor, rooms for professors and scholars to stay and conduct research.

To review the functioning of the Classical Research Institute, the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the new institute building at Perumbakkam on 17.01.2022. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was inquisitive about the old Tamil Books and digitization of rare, old Tamil books.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also visited the Thiruvalluvar and Tholkappiar Auditoriums, and academic and administrative offices. Subsequently, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also enquired about research works that are taking place in the Institute, which was explained by the director

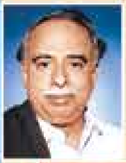
of the Institute through multimedia presentation. The Director also gave a summary about the existing works and the future plans of the Institute. Later, the Hon'ble Chief Minister advised the officials about the future works and plans of the Institute.

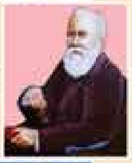
On the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister released 8 new books on behalf of the Institute. The books are research works on 'Tholkappiyam', 'Dheivachilayar Uraineri', 'Ainkurunooru Kurinji', 'Ainkurunooru Paalai', 'Vaaymozhi Vaaipattu Kotpadu Nokkil Sanga Ilakkiyam', 'Pudhiya Nokkil Kalapirar Varalaru', Dravidian Comparative Grammar- II and a Historical Grammar of Tamil. The Hon'ble Minister for industries and Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture, Thiru. Thangam Thenarasu received the books.

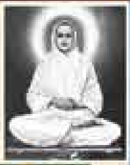
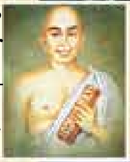
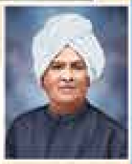
The Hon'ble Chief Minister also gave the following advice to the employees of the Institute. Apart from conducting research into Tamil works and publishing old Tamil Books, the Institute should also involve students in the working of the Institute. It should also conduct seminars to enable people to know about the richness of the Tamil Language. It should co-ordinate with School Education and Higher Education Departments to help students know about the Institute. Similarly, the Institute should have co-ordination with Tamil University, Tamil Development Department, Tamil Virtual Academy and other Tamil Departments of the State Government.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also announced that Kalaignar Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Awards for the years 2010 to 2019 would be distributed to the selected scholars on 22.01.2022 at the Anna Centenary Library.

List of recipients of awards established in the names of Tamil savants, leaders





The Government of Tamil Nadu has instituted many awards named after Tamil scholars and selfless leaders who worked for the growth of the Tamil language and literature and for the uplift of Tamil society, and is distributing them. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** announced on 26.01.2022 the names of the awardees for the year 2021.

Perarignar Anna Award – Thiru. Nanjil Sampath; Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award – Thiru. Bharathi Krishnakumar; Pavendar Bharathidasan Award – Pulavar Senthalai Gouthaman; Sollin Selvar Award - Thiru. Surya Seviyar; Singaravelar Award – Kavignar Madhukur Ramalingam; Thamizh Thaai Award – Tamil Writers Sangam, Malaysia; Arutperumjothi Vallalar Award – Dr. R. Sanjeevirayar; C.P. Adithanar Magazine Award (Monthly) – Uyirmai magazine; Devaneya Pavaanar Award – Dr. G. Arasendhran; Umaru Pulavar Award – Thiru.N. Mohammed; Ki.Aa. Pe. Award – Dr. M. Rajendran; Kambar Award – Tmt. Bharathi Baskar; Thiru. G.U. Pope Award – Thiru. A.S. Panneerselvam; Maraimalai Adigal Award – Thiru. Suki Sivam; Ilangovadigal Award – Thiru. Nellai Kannan and Iyothee Thass Pandithar Award – Thiru. Gnana Aloysius

The award carries Rs. 2 lakh cash, a gold medal of one sovereign and a citation.

‘Unite in the name of Tamil’

Speech delivered by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, at the Non-Resident Tamils Day function on 12.01.2022 in Chennai, held on behalf of the Department of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils *(English Translation)*.

My welcome to all my Tamil brothers living all over the world.

I am extremely proud to participate and address you on Non-Resident Tamils Day, organized by the Department of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils

We have assembled here on the basis of ‘Let us unite through Tamil’.

Tamil has the inherent strength to overcome the religious and caste divide.

When one Tamilan meets another, he should greet him in Tamil. Other differences between them should not be given importance, said Tamil savant M.Varadarasanar.

I am extending my greetings through Tamil. While thanking you all, who are united through Tamil, I am also extending my greetings to you on Non-Resident Tamils Day.

We have assembled here with the strength that we are all Tamils. You may live in different nations and be separated by vast stretches of land. But the Tamil language unites us. The Tamil language has such a strength.

The Dravidian movement proclaims that even if you fall, Tamil should live. The Movement inculcates the spirit of Tamil race among Tamils. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is a movement, which not only fought for and protected the Tamil language but also sacrificed its cadres for the sake of language.

Whenever the DMK comes to power, it is not only the Government of Tamils here but also serves as the Government of Tamils spread all over the world.

Many of you do not have a franchise to vote in Tamil Nadu. But you have the right to say that this Government of Tamil Nadu is my Government. That was the reason I made announcements last September on protecting the interests of Non-Resident Tamils.

Our race has not lived in one land or in one nation only. If at all any race is spread all over the world, it is only the Tamil race. The population of Tamils is in greater numbers in 30 nations and less in numbers in 60 nations.

I have already made an extensive speech in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. Tamils left for other nations for doing business or in search of employment or to escape from sea disasters or to discover new places.

In this manner, many people had many intentions for going abroad. Migration has been going on for a long time. But wherever in the world Tamil people live, their Motherland is Tamil Nadu.

Today, technology has improved a lot. People can hear my speech from various nations. Similarly, I hear your speech and see you. Despite the absence of such technological advances, Tamils went to many nations in the past as they had self-confidence and an unquenchable thirst. They did not confine themselves to their hometowns, speaking of their old glory alone. They migrated to

other nations with the confidence that their talent would be recognized.

I do not consider you merely as people who migrated to other nations for a living. I consider you as ambassadors of Tamil culture. Dr. Kalaignar dedicated his life to such Tamil ambassadors.

To meet various demands of migrant Tamils, the Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Act was adopted by the then DMK Government on March 1, 2011. It was also announced that the Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board would be set up to implement welfare schemes.

But due to a change of Government, the Welfare Board could not be set up. After the DMK came to power again last year, I announced the formation of the Welfare Board within 5 months after takeover.

The Board has 13 members consisting of representatives from the Government and migrant Tamils with Rs. 5 crore as corpus fund. I also announced that an annual allotment of Rs.1.40 crore for capital expenditure and Rs. 3 crore for recurring and administrative expenditures would be allotted.

A database will be created for non-resident Tamils and if Tamils die during service, educational fees and marriage assistance will be provided for their family members. During the migration, they will be given training in refresher courses in various towns.

Legal assistance centre, toll free telephone, internet facility and mobile application will also be provided. For those who return to Tamil Nadu, loan facilities will be arranged with a maximum of Rs.2.5 lakh subsidy. For this, Rs. 6 crore will be allotted.

A conducive atmosphere will be created for a safe investment climate for Non-resident Tamils in Government and industries.

Through ‘My village scheme’ Tamils can donate for constructive activities in their village. Facilities will be provided to help Tamil children to learn the language. All welfare associations formed in various countries will be coordinated. For implementing all these announcements, Rs. 20 crore has been allotted by the Government.

As a part of these announcements, January 12 will be celebrated as World Tamil Migrants Day. Various social welfare schemes for Sri Lankan Tamils who returned to Tamil Nadu, are being implemented with an allocation of Rs.317 crore.

But for the Corona pandemic, this function would have been organized in a grand manner. We could not do so due to Corona. But as we are large-hearted people, we are celebrating the Day in a grand manner through video conferencing. Tamils living in various nations are participating in the function and various people are to give lectures on various topics. All these should focus on raising the Tamil language and the Tamil people higher. We should push back any move that divides us and give preference to issues that unite us.

Do not give importance to differences that exist in Tamil Nadu. Live like sons of one mother. Progress in education and employment opportunities. Like a tree which has its roots firmly set on the soil, don’t forget that your roots are in Tamil Nadu and in the language. Come to Tamil Nadu. Show your mother land to your children.

Inform them that our race and culture flourished even 3000 years ago by showing them Keezhadi and Adichanallur.

This Government, which is for Tamils here, is also for Tamils all over the world. To introduce Tamil culture to the present generation and to teach Tamil, it is necessary to help each other and have coordination.

I extend my sincere thanks to Dr.Dhanapal Ramasamy, Dr.Raja Natarajan, former president of Mauritius Thiru. Barlen Vyapoory, Sri Lankan MP Hon’ble M.A.Sumanthiran, former Malaysian Minister Datho B.Kamalanathan and Papua New Guinea Governor Thiru. Sasindran Muthuvel for their online participation. ■

Thiruvalluvar Day

On the occasion of Thiruvalluvar Day, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. R.N.Ravi** paid floral tribute to a portrait of Ayyan Thiruvalluvar kept near his statue at Kamarajar Salai, Chennai on 15.01.2022,

January 17: Birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R.

On the occasion of the 105th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R., on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Thiru. Ma.Subramanian, paid floral tribute to his portrait, kept near his statue at Tamil Nadu Dr.M.G.R. Medical University Complex, Guindy on 17.01.2022.

Government of Tamil Nadu to install Pennycuick statue at Camberley

A new statue of Colonel John Pennycuick, who spent his personal funds and surmounted many hindrances to construct the Mullaiperiyar Dam, the life-line of south Tamil Nadu, will be installed at a central place in his home town Camberley in England, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Making this announcement on his birth anniversary, January 15, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said the Tamil diaspora in London had made efforts to install the statue of Colonel Pennycuick in his home town and got permission from St.Peter's Church as per British law.

Colonel John Pennycuick, a British civil engineer, through his hard work and technical knowledge completed the construction of Mullaiperiyar dam in 1895 for the benefit of the people in southern Tamil Nadu, thereby fulfilling the agricultural and drinking water demands of the farmers and the people in 5 Districts of Tamil Nadu, namely Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram. The construction of the dam completely changed the livelihood of the people in these Districts and provided assured irrigation for 2,19,840.81 acres of land.

When the then British Government refused to sanction funds for the project, Colonel John Pennycuick returned to England and sold his own properties. He completed the construction of the dam with determination, self-confidence, will power, hard work and perseverance.

His birth anniversary on January 15 is celebrated by people in the southern Districts. People in Theni District offer Pongal on his birth anniversary. People in the District express their gratitude by naming their children as Pennycuick.

In Pennycuick's memory, Muthamizh Arignar Dr.Kalaignar declared open his statue at Tallakulam PWD Complex in Madurai on 15.06.2000.

The Government of Tamil Nadu constructed a Mani Mandapam with a bronze statue of Pennycuick in Gudalur Lower camp and named the Theni Bus Stand after him.

Tamil Nadu is making consistent efforts legally to retain its right on Mullaiperiyar in the High Court of Madras, in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Central Water Commission and other high-level bodies, and to increase the water storage level to 152 feet.

The present Government will take all necessary steps to safeguard the interest of the State on the Mullaiperiyar Issue taking into consideration the long-term water-related issues of the people of Tamil Nadu. I take the pledge on the birth anniversary of Pennycuick to safeguard the rights of Tamil Nadu over the dam which was constructed against great odds.

-Thiru. M.K.Stalin
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Birth Anniversary of Colonel John Pennycuick

On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, District Collector Thiru. K.V. Muralidharan, I.A.S., paid floral tribute to the statue of colonel John Pennycuick, on the occasion of his 181th birth anniversary, at the memorial located at the Gudalur Lower camp, Theni District, on 15.01.2022.

'Sound policy and quick problem solving did the trick'

Study shows Tamil Nadu best for doing business in April-December 2021

Attracts investments of Rs. 1,43,902 crore through 304 projects during April-December 2021

Tamil Nadu has emerged as the most attractive investment destination in the first nine months of Financial Year 2022, says a report by Projects Today.

The State is the highest net gainer of investments during April-December 2021. It attracted investments worth Rs. 1,43,902 crore from 304 projects during this period against Rs. 36,292 crore in the same period last year – a net gain of Rs. 1,07,610 crore.

Gujarat came second with a net gain of Rs. 77,892 crore and Telangana third (Rs. 65,288 crore), says the report.

Some of the companies that have committed to invest in Tamil Nadu include the Tata Group, JSW Renew, Hindustan Unilever, TVS Motor, the Adani Group and Larsen & Toubro.

Sound policy, the key

Sound policy and quick problem-solving approach helped Tamil Nadu attract investments. “This is the feedback that we got from the companies. They say that there is a willingness to listen and a willingness to resolve,” said Industry Secretary S Krishnan.

The decision-making on a range of issues, including incentive packages, is fast. At the time of the COVID pandemic these factors became important as decision-making had to ensure that the economy did not suffer, he added.

The DMK, which came to power in May, has released a series of policies including those for FinTech, MSMEs and Data Centres to woo investors.

S. Chandra Kumar, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu and Founder-Chairman, Kauvery Hospital, said that despite the pandemic, the State strengthened its competitiveness in the sphere of doing business.

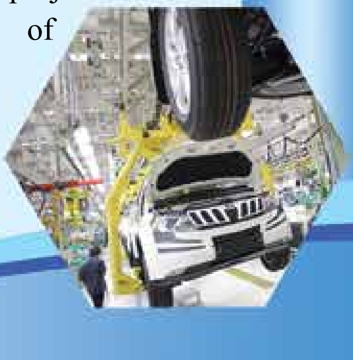
The State Government should continue the ease of doing business initiatives in new and emerging sectors like biotechnology, medical equipment manufacturing and renewable energy.

Globally trusted

CK Ranganathan, Chairman & Managing Director, CavinKare, said the jump in FDI clearly shows the trust global investors and industry leaders have in the current Government. The political and bureaucratic leadership of Tamil Nadu is strong and has always had the legacy of attracting Industrial investments.

Across India, the first nine months of the current fiscal saw 7,764 new projects with a total investment commitment of Rs. 12,76,679 crore.

(*Courtesy: The Hindu Business Line*)



Remembering the day Kalingarayan Canal was dedicated for use

Hon'ble Minister for Information & Publicity Thiru. M.P. Saminathan and Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare Tmt.N. Kayalvizhi Selvaraj paid floral tribute to the statue of Kalingarayan, installed at the Manimandapam erected for him at Mettunasuvampalayam Panchayat, Erode and paid their respects on 18.01.2022.

Celebrating birth anniversary of Mamannar Thirumalai Naicker

In connection with the 439th birth anniversary of Mamannar Thirumalai Naicker, Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration Thiru. P. Moorthy and Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan garlanded the statue of Thirumalai Naicker at the Mahal named after him in Madurai on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, and paid their respects on 18.01.2022.

Floral tribute to statue of Thiyagi Sankaralinganar

District Collector Thiru. J.Meghanath Reddy I.A.S., garlanded on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, the statue of Thiyagi Sankaralinganar at the Manimandapam in his name, in connection with his 127th birth anniversary and paid his respects in Virudhunagar on 26.01.2022.

Aavin introduces five new products for sale

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, at the Secretariat on 19.01.2022, introduced 5 new products of Aavin for sale. The new products are: Aavin Premium Milk Cake, Yoghurt Drink (Mango and Strawberry), Payasam Mix, Milk Protein Noodles and Dairy Whitener.

Aavin, with quality as its prime objective, is the front runner in milk sale in Tamil Nadu for over 40 years. The organization procures milk from 4.20 lakh milk producers, and supplies milk to consumers at reasonable price. For the benefit of Chennai consumers, Aavin has dairies at Madhavaram, Ambattur and Sholinganallur, which are under the control of the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers Federation. Apart from these dairies, the organization has its own milk products unit at Ambattur, milk and milk powder unit in Tiruvannamalai, Nucleus Jersey and Stud Farm at Udhagamandalam and Buffalo Frozen Semen Unit and Milk Development Unit at Erode. Immediately after taking over as the Chief Minister of the State, Thiru. M.K.Stalin, has directed Aavin officials to take steps for improving the sales and profit of the organization. As per the directive of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Aavin has now introduced 5 new products.

These new products were made open for sale by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Secretariat on 19.01.2022.

Aavin Premium Milk Cake: At present, Aavin is manufacturing Milk Gova, Mysorepa, Rasagulla and Gulab Jamun for sale in the market to the satisfaction of consumers. Now for the benefit of lovers of sweets, Aavin has introduced 250 gm Premium Milk Cake at a cost of Rs. 100. The cake has been prepared with quality milk powder and Aavin ghee.

Yogurt Drink (Mango and Strawberry): To attract the young, Aavin has introduced Yoghurt Drink with Mango and Strawberry Flavour. The drink being sold at Rs. 25 per bottle of 200 ml, will buy the spirit and improve digestion.

Payasam Mix: Knowing the taste of consumers, Aavin has introduced Payasam Mix for use during festivals and on special occasions. This Mix is available in 100 gm and 200 gm packs, costing Rs. 50 and Rs.100 respectively. It has been prepared to attract children. It has been specially prepared with almond and cashew nuts, raisins and milk powder.

Milk Protein Noodles: This new product has been prepared for the convenience of consumers, especially office-going women and to satisfy the taste of children. It is priced at Rs. 10 per 70 gm.

Dairy Whitener: This product has been introduced for instant preparation of milk, especially for use in hotels, tea shops, hostels and big organizations. Dairy Whitener will also be extremely useful while travelling. It is available in attractive packs of 20 gm (Rs.10), 200 gm (Rs.80) and 500 gm (Rs.200).

Hon'ble Chief Minister hears views of members of HR and CE panel on temple maintenance

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** presided over a consultation meeting with the members of the committee set up for developing facilities for devotees in temples on behalf of the HR & CE Department, for their maintenance of temples and upgrading them. The meeting was held at the Commissioner's office of the HR & CE Department, Nungambakkam, Chennai on 20.01.2022.

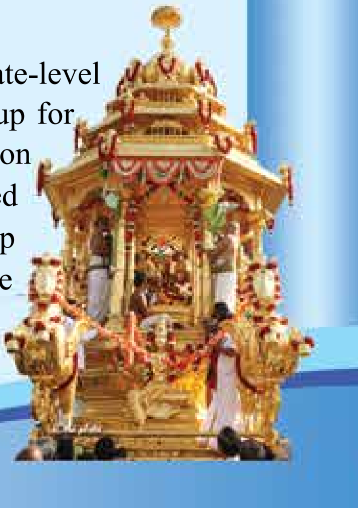
Earlier, the Hon'ble Chief Minister commissioned the control room set up in the Commissioner's office to monitor the CCTV cameras installed in temples.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** at the consultation meeting *(English Translation*

Thiru. Chandra Mohan I.A.S., Principal Secretary to the HR & CE Department who has delivered the welcome address at this consultation meeting, Hon'ble Minister for HR & CE Thiru. P.K. Sekar Babu, Vice-Chairman of this committee in whose presence this meeting is being held, Thavathiru Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar, a member of the committee, determined to bring honour to this Department and the Government, Respected Thiru. Suki Sivam, Thiru. Dharanipathi Rajkumar, Tmt. Desa Mangayarkarasi, Srimad Varaha Mahadesikan, Sri La Sri Ambalavana Desika Paramacharya Swamigal, Thiruperunthiru Santhalinga Marudachala Adigalar, Justice Thiru. T. Mathivanan, Thiru. Karumuthu T. Kannan, Dr.Sakthivel Muruganar, Thiru. N. Subramani, Tmt.Srimathi Sivasankar and Thiru. J. Kumaraguruparan I.A.S., Commissioner, HR & CE, who is to deliver the vote of thanks – first, I wish to convey my affectionate respects to all of you.

You know that as Chief Minister, I have been participating in meetings of Government Department officials. In their midst, I got this excellent opportunity of meeting you, hearing your viewpoints and holding consultations with you.

As per the HR & CE Act, a state-level consultation committee has to be set up for this Department. When my attention was drawn by the Minister concerned that no such committee had been set up after 2015, I insisted that he should take immediate action for setting up the



committee. On that basis, the Hon'ble Governor announced in his Address to the Legislative Assembly on 21.06.2021 that such a committee would be set up.

The Committee which had not been set up for 6 years, has now been formed with 13 non-officials and its meeting is taking place here.

All people know that you are all non-political and are inclined towards spirituality. You are all greatly interested in public welfare. I am really happy to have included you as non-officials in this committee. When you were approached for your participation in this committee, you agreed and brought honour to this committee, to this Government. First I wish to thank you for that.

On this happy occasion, you are well aware, as interested persons in spirituality, of the DMK Government's achievements in the last 8 months. Still, as the Head of the Government, I am happy to share them all with you; I feel it is my duty to share them with you.

Permission to undertake repair works in 725 temples; under the scheme that caste is no bar to become archaka in temples, 58 archakas have been appointed. Temple archanas are in the mother tongue, Tamil. The allocation of Rs. One lakh for the 'Orukala Pooja' is increased to Rs. 2 lakh. An incentive of Rs.1,000 has been granted for the first time for archakas in this scheme.

Medical centres in 10 temples; day-long 'annadhanam' in Tiruttani, Samayapuram and Tiruchendur temples; temple lands worth Rs. 1,689 crore retrieved from encroachments; steps to run golden chariots in Samayapuram and Tiruttani temples, which had not been done in the past ten years.

Proper maintenance of 65 golden and 49 silver chariots in temples and making arrangements for their run in temple premises; upgrading of flower gardens in 100 temples, repairing of temple chariots and maintenance of temple tanks; during the corona pandemic period, 15 types of food items and Rs.4,000 cash assistance to the archakas in temples and in the 'orukala pooja' scheme.

Monthly pension to retired archakas, Oduvars and musical instrument players of temples has been increased from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000.

Monthly pension to retired pujaris of village temples increased from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000; dearness allowance rose on par with Government employees; Rs. 2,000 Pongal ex-gratia and new clothes to archakas in temples and uniforms to temple staff.

The scheme to plant tree saplings sacred to particular temples was launched at this office of the Commissioner on 03.06.2021, the birth anniversary of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar and so far 68,000 tree saplings have been planted.

The administrative expenditure and maintenance cost for 490 temples in Kanniyakumari District was doubled from Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 6 crore; to 225 temples in Pudukkottai District to Rs. 3

crore from Rs. 1 crore; though it was announced that 10 colleges would be started, 4 have been started benefiting 500 students.

The fund distributed to people in Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes areas has been doubled from Rs. One lakh to Rs. 2 lakh; the fund for repair works in village temples is doubled from Rs. One lakh to Rs. 2 lakh. Through the 'annadhana' scheme, 44 lakh food packets have been distributed so far.

There are many more achievements to be mentioned. I have shared only a few of them with you. This Government certainly needs all your suggestions for taking temple works to greater heights. This committee is set up only for that purpose. This meeting is taking place only on behalf of that committee.

I wish to inform you about the subject assigned to the members of this consultation committee.

Thavathiru Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar; Srimad Varaha Desikan - Besides publishing the history and ancient accounts (puranas) of the locations of temples, re-publishing of rare books, published by temples and mutts, selling those books to devotees at reduced price through the temples and mutts and digitization of the same.

Sri la sri Ambalavana Desika Paramacharya Swamigal – re-publication of rare books published by temples and mutts, digitizing those books and sale of those books to devotees through temples/ mutts.

Dr. Thiruperunthiru Santhalinga Marudhachala Adigalar; Thiru. Karumuthu T. Kannan – Upgrading the standards and syllabi of the training schools for Oduvars, Archakas and music schools, increasing the enrolment of students and ensuring employment opportunities for them.

Justice (Retd.) T. Mathivanan – Amending the sections of the Tamil Nadu HR & CE Act 1959 to suit existing conditions.

Senior Dr. 'Mudhu Munaivar' Sathiyavel Muruganar; Thiru. Suki Sivam - Publication of temple Agamas in Tamil and English for devotees to understand and benefit

Tmt. Desa Mangayarkarasi, Thiru.N. Ramasubramanian - Conducting spiritual lectures, classes and events in temples.

Tmt.Srimathi Sivasankar, Thiru. Dharanipathi Rajkumar – Computerization of all services available for devotees in temples.

Thiru. Mallikarjun Santhanakrishnan - Upgrading fund management in temples and computerization.

In their speeches, our Thavathiru Ponnambala Adigalar, Thiru. Suki Sivam, Thiru Dharanipathi Rajkumar and Tmt. Desa Mangayarkarasi put forth their ideas and suggestions for this Government and this Department. As the Minister for HR & CE Thiru. Sekar Babu has stated, all these suggestions and ideas will certainly be implemented gradually. In the last 8 months, the Government has performed appreciably. More than the appreciation in Tamil Nadu, you would have seen media reports on how foreign countries have heaped accolades on this Government. No doubt, it is a matter of pride. An opinion poll on the performance of a few Chief Ministers in the country was conducted and I was adjudged as the best. I am proud of it. But I

have been stating that more than getting credited as No. 1 Chief Minister in India, Tamil Nadu occupying the 1st place in the country would have given me greater pride. We are moving towards that. Certainly, your co-operation will be there.

Your advice and suggestions are going to enrich this Department. This committee's purpose is to provide facilities for the public in religious institutions. Not only that, you can share your views without any hesitation on installing rope cars to hill temples, upgrading flower gardens, maintenance of temple tanks, temple chariots etc., with the Minister concerned, Department officials and with me also. You have that right; you can meet me at any time.

I have certainly gained the confidence that this committee's performance will make the Department glitter and the temples excellent for devotees. I got that confidence on seeing you. I hope the general public will get all facilities through temples and through this Department on a scale not obtained so far.

I conclude my speech, conveying once again my heartfelt thanks to the members of this committee on behalf of the Government and this Department.

Manifold facilities commissioned for devotees at Palani Murugan temple

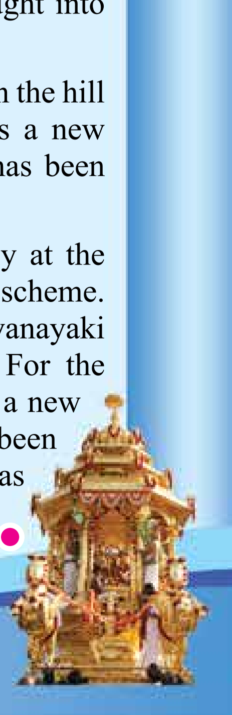
To meet the basic needs of devotees visiting Palani Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani temple, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** commissioned through video conferencing a purified drinking water scheme, an 'annadhanam' hall, a lift and a Bell Tower, at a cost of Rs. 23.82 crore at the Secretariat on 20.01.2022.

The Palani temple is one of the prime temples of Tamil Nadu and the third in the famed six shrines of the deity. To provide facilities to devotees in a full-fledged manner, the purified water supply scheme has been executed by constructing a check dam across Palar near the Balasamudram Village, Palani at a cost of Rs. 22.72 crore through the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board. 2.31 MLD of water is drawn every day for supply to the hill temple, lodges and connected establishments.

A battery car is in operation for the convenience of senior citizens and differently abled persons visiting the temple. To help devotees reach the outer 'prakaram' of the hill temple from the upper rope car terminal, a lift with a capacity to accommodate 13 persons has been set up at a cost of Rs. 23.98 lakh through a donor. This has been brought into operation now.

Poojas are performed six times a day in the hill temple. As an accompaniment for poojas a new 'Nadha Mani Mandapam' (Bell Tower) has been set up at a cost of Rs. 27.50 lakh.

About 5,000 devotees take food daily at the temple under the day-long 'annadhanam' scheme. In the subsidiary temple of Arulmigu Periyanayaki Amman, 100 devotees take food daily. For the convenience of the devotees taking food, a new 'annadhana koodam' with 108 chairs has been set up at a cost of Rs. 58.30 lakh and has now been brought to use.



Hon'ble Chief Minister orders excavations in 7 more sites to establish antiquity of Tamils

Announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. M.K.Stalin, on 20.01.2022 *(English Translation).*

The land of Tamil Nadu has a very ancient history. To prove the antiquity of Tamil and the culture of Tamil Nadu scientifically, it is necessary to conduct proper excavations.

In the recent past, excavations were conducted in Keezhadi, Alagankulam, Korkai, Sivakalai, Adichanallur, Kodumanal, Mayiladumparai and Gangaikondacholapuram. It is no exaggeration to say that these excavations took the antiquity of Tamil Nadu several centuries back.

The excavations at Keezhadi seem to be the forerunner to other excavations in the country. Till then it had been believed that "urbanization" started not in Tamil Nadu but in Ganges plain in the 6th BCE and the Brahmi letters belonged to the Maurya period. But the excavations at Keezhadi scientifically proved that those hypotheses were wrong. According to Keezhadi excavations, urbanization was there in Tamil Nadu in the 6th BCE itself and the people of that time were literate and educated.

I informed on the floor of the Assembly on 09.09.2021 that the carbon dating of husked rice in burial urns found in the recent "Porunai" Archaeological excavations show that they belong to 1,155 BCE and the excavations conducted along the River Thamirabarani have revealed that the civilization was more than 3,200 years old.

Following these, it has been planned to conduct excavations in 7 more places, inclusive of all places of Tamil Nadu right from the prehistoric period to the historic period. To add to the antiquity and culture of Tamil society, excavations have been planned in the following 7 places.

★ The sites are Keezhadi and the surrounding areas, (Konthagai, Akaram and Manalur) in Sivagangai District - Eighth Stage;

★ Sivakalai in Thoothukudi District - Third Stage;

★ Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur District - Second stage;

★ Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri District - Second Stage;

★ Vembakottai in Virudhunagar District- First Stage;

★ Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli Disrict - First Stage;

★ Perumpalai in Dharmapuri District - First Stage.

As per the old adage that "Thiraikadal odiyum Thiraviyam thedal" (wealth is earned by crossing the seas), the sea ports of the Sangam Age, such as Poompuhar, Korkai, Alagankulam and Vasavasamudram played a major role in Tamil society and had trade links not only with cities in

other parts of the country but also with those abroad.

The Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department has planned to conduct preliminary investigation in places opposite to Thamirabarani Estuary. In the first phase, to find the archeological wealth of Korkai Port, it has been planned to conduct research along with the National Institute of Ocean Technology and the Indian Maritime University.

The excavation works will start from the first week of February and will continue to the end of September. For this, Rs. 5 crore has been allotted in the recent budget, which will be utilized for finding new excavations, on-field study and to identify the location of the Korkai Port of the Sangam Age.

The above excavations and the on-field study would help prove scientifically that the history of the Indian Sub-continent started from Tamil Nadu only.

Thulukkarpatti

Thulukkarpatti is situated on the left bank of the River Nambi, about 6 km south east of Valliyur in Tirunelveli District. About 2.5 km from this village, on the way to Kannanallur, Vazhviyal Medu (8°25'41.29"N77°40'31.79"E) is found. This place is also known as Vilankadu. The place, said to belong to the Iron and early historic period, is spread over 12 hectares at a height of 2.5 metres from the plains. In this place red colour, black-red colour, black colour and white dotted potsherds and shards with signs were found in burial urns. Taking into consideration the archaeological findings, this cultural ridge awaits more such archaeological findings. The aim of the excavations is to find the causes of the formation of the archaeological platform, migration and the characteristics of archaeological artefacts. The aim of the excavation is to get to the roots of the Stone Age civilization on the banks of the Nambi river. This archaeological ridge is more or less of the same age as Sivakalai and Adhichanallur.

Vembakottai

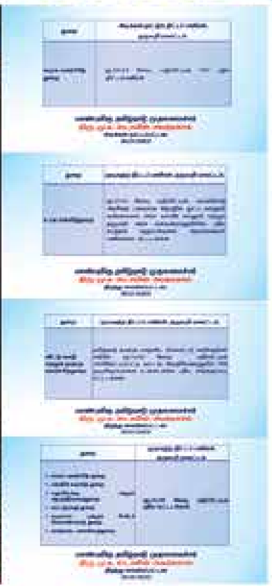
It is situated 15 km south of Sivakasi in Virudhunagar District on the left bank of the River Vypparu. It is also called Mettukadu and Uchimedu and is spread over a 25 acre site. This site reveals that people lived continuously from microlithic to middle stone age. This archaeological platform is 2 metres higher than the present landscape. In this place, potsherds belonging to the Iron Age are spread all over the place. In this site finely carved stone instruments, various types of beads, ornamentally designed chunk bangles, ear rings, plates made of baked clay and iron ore are found.

The main aim of the present excavation is to collect more finely carved instruments over various periods.

Perumbalai

The place is historically significant and is 25 km from Ponnagaram in Dharmapuri District on the left bank of Palar. The place has been considered as the northern border of Kongu Nadu. It is spread over 75 acres at a height of 3 to 4 metres from ground level. In this place, black and white pottery, red painted pottery and black earthen pottery are found. The presence of Emakadu area is found opposite to Shiva Temple in Semmanur. Recently when a canal was dug in Emakadu, more than 50 stone rings were excavated. By conducting research on the available excavations, Perumpalai would throw more light on the early periods. The aim of the excavations is to find the formation of archaeological platform, habitation and the nature of excavated objects. The aim of the excavation is to find the roots of Iron Age culture on the banks of the River Palar, which is a branch river of the Cauvery River.

Completed works for Dharmapuri District
Hon'ble Chief Minister points to topnotch investments as sign of good governance



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** declared open at the Secretariat on 20.01.2022 through video conferencing, 46 completed works, executed at an estimate of Rs. 56.20 crore, laid the foundation stone for 591 new works valued at Rs. 35.43 crore and distributed Government welfare assistance worth Rs. 157.42 crore to 13,587 beneficiaries, for Dharmapuri District.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** at this event *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Thiru. M.R.K. Panneerselvam who has resumed his seat after delivering the Presidential Address in this excellent Government event being held in Dharmapuri District, Dharmapuri Member of Parliament Thiru. Senthilkumar, Pennagaram MLA and my respected Thiru. G.K. Mani, Dharmapuri MLA and my dear brother Thiru. Venkateswaran, Dharmapuri District Collector Tmt. Divyadharshini I.A.S., Government officers of various Departments, Newspaper and Media Friends and Brothers, Dear Ladies and Sisters of Women Self-Help Groups – I extend my affectionate greetings to all of you.

We are conducting this event through video conferencing at Dharmapuri, known in ancient times as Thagadoor and ruled by Adhiyaman, one of the famous seven philanthropists of yore.

I was as eager as you are to be present physically at Dharmapuri and distribute to you the welfare assistances under various schemes. But the Corona restrictions have prevented this somewhat.

You all know that I had assigned brother Thiru. M.R.K. Panneerselvam as Minister-in-charge for Dharmapuri District as far as Government affairs are concerned. We call him 'Vengayin Maindhan'. He would be calm and quiet but once some work is given to him, he would become as alert and active as a tiger. You know this and I also know how he had planned to conduct this function. He was putting in efforts for several months to conduct it as a village festival encompassing many villages, not as

a mere Government function. The Corona pandemic denied us that sight due to Government restrictions. Still, yet another opportunity will present itself in some weeks and I assure you that I will certainly come to Dharmapuri.

Two things strike us when the name Dharmapuri is mentioned. One is Women Self-Help Groups created by Thalaivar Kalaignar – it was started first in Dharmapuri – and another is the Hogenakkal combined water supply scheme executed under my supervision.

Thalaivar Kalaignar started the Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), first in Dharmapuri District with the idea that women, who form 50% of the society, should be self-supportive and economically independent. The inaugural of that scheme took place in Dharmapuri; Kalaignar was present at the function and inaugurated the scheme to provide loans to women.

I was Local Administration Minister then, toured all over the state and sponsored women SHGs through Government events. When many women identify themselves to me, wherever I go, as members of women SHGs and tell me about their proud life due to the loans arranged by me, I am moved and feel happy. So, I cannot forget Dharmapuri District at any point of time.

Likewise, the one great scheme that will certainly find a place in the list of my achievements is the Hogenakkal combined water supply scheme.

The people of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts had to trek several kilometres for drinking water. The water obtained in this manner was rich in fluoride, afflicting the people, particularly in the areas including Ponnagaram, Palacode and Dharmapuri, with bone-related diseases and sedimentation in teeth. The Hogenakkal combined water supply scheme was implemented to save the people of these two Districts from these ailments.

This scheme was conceived by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar. Everyone knew how much I, as Local Administration Minister then, was involved in the implementation of this scheme. Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar dispatched me to Japan for expediting planning and arrangement of funds and I carried the tasks out. In 2008, Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar inaugurated this excellent scheme.

I visited Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri several times, reviewed the works and expedited them. There was regime change when 80% of the scheme had been completed. The successor Government kept the scheme in abeyance. For the completion of this scheme, I went to Dharmapuri District, mobilized the people and launched an agitation. Only after that and bereft of any other recourse, the then Government implemented the scheme. So, whenever I think of Dharmapuri, the immediate recollection is of the Hogenakkal combined water supply scheme. I cannot forget that.

This scheme now caters to 3 Municipalities, 16 Town Panchayats and 7,639 rural habitats in these two Districts. I wish to inform you through this event that work on preparing a detailed project report for the second phase of this scheme to increase the quantum of water supplied at a cost of Rs. 4,600 crore, will be commenced.

Besides this, I wish to make some more announcements.

★ To facilitate traffic between the Districts of Salem and Dharmapuri, a new flyover will be constructed from Kottaiyur in Salem District to Ottanur in Dharmapuri District and a new road will be laid at a cost of Rs. 250 crore.

★ A new milk processing plant will be set up in Dharmapuri in deference to the long-

standing demand of Dharmapuri District farmers, producing milk.

★ A new SIPCOT Industrial Park will be located in Dharmapuri for providing job opportunities on a large scale to the youth through creation of new industries.

★ An additional office building with all facilities will be set up at an estimate of Rs. 40 crore in the Dharmapuri District Collector office complex.

Today, 46 Government buildings, costing Rs. 56.20 crore have been declared open; I have laid the foundation for 591 new buildings to be constructed at an estimate of Rs. 35.42 crore. These buildings will come up across Dharmapuri District inclusive of Dharmapuri, Nallampalli, Arur, Kadathur, Pennagaram, Morappur, Pappireddipatti, Eriyur and Karimangalam. They will be constructed and declared open shortly.

Welfare assistance is to be distributed today to 13,587 persons. The assistance will be in a variety of forms inclusive of providing house site patta, old-age pension, assistance to differently abled persons, widow assistance, spinsters' assistance, marriage assistance, scholarship, Farmers credit card, Prime Minister's housing scheme, works on compassionate grounds, houses for Irular community people, iron box at no cost to press clothes, assistance to Ulemas, compensation to children who have lost their parents in Corona pandemic, new power connections to farmers, solar energy, micro irrigation scheme and mobile vegetable vending cart. I have mentioned only a few schemes and assistance under many more that are to be distributed. The assistance is given to 13,587 persons at a cost of Rs. 157.42 crore.

In sum, welfare schemes to the value of Rs. 249.05 crore have been created today for people. Instead of describing it as my gesture, it will be correct and appropriate to state that the Government created by you, has distributed it to you.

You relied on us and handed over the administration. This function is a symbol that we have been honouring our assurances. Hereafter, such functions will take place often; not only here but also in all Districts.

The DMK Government stands for diligence all the time.

In a special article some days ago, the 'BusinessLine' English newspaper stated: 'Tamil Nadu is the best state for industrial investments'.

This Government took over administration in May. In these six months, if Tamil Nadu has attracted Rs. 1,34, 902 crore investments for 304 projects, it signifies that good governance prevails in the state.

If a number of companies make huge investments in a State, it means there is good governance in that State; peace prevails in that State; law and order is excellent in that State; it is a developing State and that any new enterprise will flourish.

Many enterprises have invested huge amounts in Tamil Nadu since this Government has gained such a respect and reputation. Investment is not just industry oriented; it is development centric; it is a symbol of good governance. We have gained such a good name within six months of forming the Government. That is most important. Rather than getting a good name in 2 or 4 years, attaining it in six months is very important.

On seeing all these things, I am highly confident that we will certainly turn our Mother Thamizhagam into the topmost State; it is possible and it will be done shortly.

With this confidence, I conclude my speech, thanking you all once again.

Assistance to heirs of late, renowned artistes

The name of the Tamil Nadu Sangeetha Nataka Sangam, established in 1955 to foster the traditional arts of Tamil Nadu was changed into Eyal Isai Nataka Manram in 1973 by way of recognizing the three arts of Eyal, Isai and Natakam. Through this Manram, many schemes are being implemented like exchange of artistes' groups between states, distribution of state-level Kalaimamani awards, conducting art events, documenting rare artistic genres, giving financial assistance to senior artists and providing financial assistance to the families of late, renowned artists.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** presented cheques for Rs. 25,000 each under the Family Assistance Scheme to 15 heirs of late artistes on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram, at the Secretariat on 20.01.2022.

BHOG certificate of FSSAI to food offerings of 314 temples

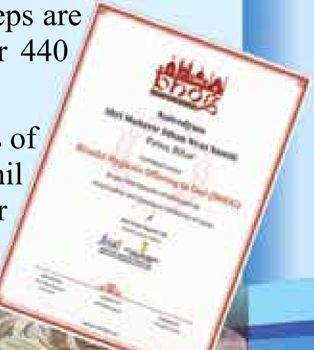
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** congratulated HR & CE officials for getting the BHOG certificate (Blissful Hygienic Offering to God) of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to 314 temples in Tamil Nadu, at the Secretariat on 24.01.2022.

As a token gesture, the Hon'ble Chief Minister met the Joint Commissioners/ executive officers of 10 temples, conveyed his appreciation and presented the certificates to them. The temples represented were Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar temple, Thiruverkadu Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman temple, Tiruttani Arulmigu Subramania Swamy temple, Thiruvannamalai Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple, Chennai Thanga Salai Arulmigu Ekambareswarar temple, Thirumullaivayal Arulmigu Masilamaneeswarar temple, Thiruporur Arulmigu Kandasamy temple, Mahabalipuram Arulmigu Sthala Sayana Perumal temple, Chennai Arulmigu Angala Parameswari Amman temple and Chennai Arulmigu Gangadeeswarar temple.

The FSSAI tests the food prepared by institutions all over the country that supply food and issues certificates for quality. It examines the prasadams prepared in places of religious worship and issues the Blissful Hygienic Offering to God (BHOG) certificates.

Among the temples under the control of the HR & CE Department, annadhanam scheme is implemented in 754 temples at an annual cost of Rs.76 crore. Food is supplied to 70,000 devotees every day.

Only 6 temples in Tamil Nadu obtained the FSSAI certificate. The serious efforts put in by the Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin resulted in 308 more temples in the state to get the BHOG certificates. Steps are taken to get the quality certificate for 440 more temples.



All over India, when just 394 places of worship have got this certificate, Tamil Nadu has obtained this certificate for 314 temples and remains the premier State in the Country.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates Urban Development Authority for Madurai

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** launched completed scheme works in Madurai District at an estimate of Rs. 51.77 crore, laid the foundation stone for new scheme works to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 49.74 crore and distributed welfare assistance valued at Rs. 219 crore to 67,831 beneficiaries, at the Secretariat on 21.01.2022 through video conferencing .

Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan who is presiding over this excellent event that includes many things including laying foundation for new scheme works, inaugurating completed scheme works and distributing Government welfare assistance in Madurai District.

Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration Thiru. K.N. Nehru, Members of the Legislative Assembly Thiruvalargal Thalapathi, Venkatesan and Boominathan, Member of Parliament Thiru. Venkatesan, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply Thiru. Shiv Das Meena I.A.S., Madurai District Collector Thiru. Aneesh Sekhar I.A.S., Madurai Corporation Commissioner Thiru. Karthikeyan I.A.S., Madurai District Panchayat Council President Tmt. Suryakala Kalanidhi, Government officers, participating welfare assistance beneficiaries, Members of Women Self Help Groups, TV, Newspaper and Media Friends, Dear Ones – I extend my greetings to all of you.

Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration Thiru. Moorthy could not participate in this event as he fell ill suddenly in the midst of preparatory works for the excellent conduct of this function and had to be hospitalized. When I talked to him over the phone this morning, he insisted on participating in the event but it was I who dissuaded him, asking him to take care of his health first. Even though he is in hospital, I know he will be witnessing this event through TV. I wish to greet and thank him for his involvement to see that this event went off well.

In this land of Madurai where Kannagi fought for justice, Tamil was nurtured here through an academy, the Sangam. It was here that Thamizh Ina Thalaivar, our Leader Kalaignar undertook a long march in search of justice. And it is Madurai where the Youth Wing of DMK that turned into a political training ground for me, was started. I am proud and happy to participate in this Government function here through video conferencing.

If this had not been a period of the Corona virus spread, this function would have been conducted on a grand scale to rock the whole Madurai City and we would have also participated directly.

Though Minister Thiru. Moorthy could not participate in this event, he had organized a week-long 'jallikattu' in a massive way and the whole credit for it should go to him. Organizing any event in a gigantic way, whether it is that of our party or the Government- seems to be the forte of Thiru. Moorthy. In his own style, he has conducted many huge functions in Madurai.

We have to rein him in, as is done to a bull; otherwise he will show what is meant by grandness.

Thiru. Moorthy introduced many reforms and has turned the Registration Department into one that yields revenue.

Likewise, is our Hon'ble Finance Minister Thiru. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan. It is not for me to tell you how effectively he is functioning. If I have to put it in more words, if I have to say it more joyfully, I can say that for three generations P.T.R.'s family has dedicated itself for this state's development.

P.T. Rajan was a Minister in this State; for some time as Chief Minister also. He worked for the development of the co-operative sector; he laid the foundation for it.

Palanivel Rajan was Speaker of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and safeguarded the honour of this House. Later, he became a Minister. His dear son, our Palanivel Thiaga Rajan is now functioning as the Finance Minister, the most difficult portfolio to handle.

Palanivel Thiaga Rajan has the duty to provide funds however critical the financial situation may be.

Thiru. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan puts in his best to mobilize funds and shape this Government's policies and schemes.

Ministers Moorthy and Palanivel Thiaga Rajan have made excellent arrangements for this event. I wish to extend my greetings to the District Collector who has risen up to the expectations of the ministers in conducting this event. Similarly, I am duty bound to convey my heartfelt greetings to Government officers and the staff who stood by the District Collector.

Though Madurai is a city from Sangam days, it is the DMK Government that has created the modern Madurai that we see today.

It is our DMK Government that upgraded Madurai Municipality into a Municipal Corporation in 1971.

- Perarignar Anna, the then Chief Minister laid the foundation for the District Court. It was declared open by the then Chief Minister our Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar.
- In 1973, Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar took the first initiative to set up a Bench of the Madras High Court in Madurai. He made another attempt in 1989; in 1996, issued an order for acquisition of land and allotted Rs. 5 crore for that. That too, was in the DMK Government. In the year 2000, foundation was laid under the Presidency of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar.
- The Madurai Subramaniapuram Flyover was constructed and it was Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar who named it as 'Madurai Muthu Flyover'.
- Again, it was Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar who named the Andalpuram Bridge as Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar Bridge.
- A railway over bridge was constructed at the South Gate, Madurai and was named after 'Thiyagi N.M.R. Subburaman'.
- A statue was erected for Marudhu Pandiar.
- A Manimandapam for Parithimarkalaignar who established a century ago that Tamil is a classic language.
- Again, it was the DMK Government that set up a Manimandapam for Devaneyapavanar, hailed as Dravida Mozhinool Gnayiru.
- During the DMK rule only, the Madura Coats flyover, a bridge across Vaigai river at Aanaikkal, 3 causeways across Vaigai river, another bridge across Vaigai river, Thathaneri railway line near Sellur and a high-level bridge were set up.
- A ring road from the 27th km of North Madurai. An integrated bus stand at Mattuthavani.A commercial complex, flower bazaar and a central market at Mattuthavani.

- Ellis Nagar flyover near Madurai railway station. Madurai Anna University in the centre of Madurai. Two polytechnics. The second Vaigai water supply scheme and Cauvery combined water supply scheme. A textile Park at Vadipatti.
- It was in Madurai where we conducted the inaugural of the Sethu Samudra Scheme which will make India more prosperous.
- Upgraded the Madurai Airport into an international airport at a cost of Rs. 120 crore. It was in DMK's rule that foundation was laid for the new terminal buildings and they were subsequently opened.
- In 2007, I laid the foundation for the intensive care unit new building at the Rajaji hospital, Madurai.

Like these, we can go on listing the achievements we have recorded. We have again started this history of achievements.

A very big library, in the name of Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar, is to be set up in Madurai that fostered Sangam Academy. It will come up in an area of 2.70 acres on a plinth area of 2,13,288 sq.ft. with 8 floors at a cost of Rs. 114 crore. It is proposed to allot Rs. 10 crore for purchase of books, e-books and digital magazines and Rs. 5 crore for purchase of technological equipment. The Kalaignar Memorial Library is going to be a treasure house of knowledge which the efflux of time cannot destroy. That it is going to be set up in Madurai, is a matter of pride, not only to you but also to us also.

For the development of Madurai City, we have set up a Madurai City Development Council.

It is the duty of the Government to lay basic infrastructure commensurate with the population growth in Madurai City and we have realized it after this Government came into being and are implementing the same.

It was Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar who first created the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority in 1972 and the modern Chennai flowered.

In that way, I am proud that I got the opportunity to inaugurate the Madurai Urban Development Authority. Through this body, we propose to implement many schemes. A 14-member committee has been set up to prepare and implement these developmental programmes.

Through this meeting, I assure you that this Madurai will be turned into a grandeur Madurai, a beautiful Madurai that will be self-reliant in all ways.

In continuation of this, I wish to make some announcements:

- In the newly annexed wards, new schemes will be implemented at a cost of Rs. 500 crore to provide underground sewerage facilities and upgrade sewage treatment works where underground sewerage facilities are already in existence.
- A Rs. 50 crore scheme will be implemented to shift the wholesale markets, located at present in the central part of Madurai City to suburban areas and thus reduce traffic congestion in the city.
- Repair works will be undertaken in the world famous Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple at a cost of Rs. 25 crore. The fire-ravaged Veeravasantharayar Mandapam will be renovated shortly at a cost of Rs. 18 crore. Repair and renovation works will be taken up shortly and consecration of Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple will be conducted in 2 years.
- The wholesale markets in Madurai would be shifted to suburban areas at a cost of Rs.50 crore in an attempt to decongest the city road.

- In view of increased traffic in Madurai Corporation areas, works costing Rs. 100 crore will be executed to extend the road on the northern bank of Vaigai river and widen the Melakkal Road.
- The Central Jail in the middle of the city will be shifted to a new place outside the Corporation. The present location of the jail will be developed with greenery for the use of people.
- The Vandiyur, Sellur and Thenkarai lake areas will be developed into common utility areas for people's day-to-day use.
- Detailed project reports are being prepared for construction of new flyovers at heavily traffic congested road junctions like those at Viraganur, Apollo Hospital, Mandela Nagar and Rajaji Hospital. These works also will be commenced shortly.
- A new SIPCOT Industrial Park will be set up in Madurai to project the District in industrial development.
- It is our duty to regulate and protect our heroic sport, Jallikattu (Eru Thazhuvuthal) that has mingled with the Tamil psyche and has become a cultural symbol.
- A grand sports ground with all modern facilities like attractive safe permanent seats for thousands of tourists, a museum displaying heroic sports events of Tamils and the different breeds of traditional bulls and hospitals to take care of the bull tamers and the bulls, will be set up at Alanganallur, Madurai.

Today, completed works worth Rs. 51.77 crore have been dedicated to the people; I have laid the foundation for new works valued at Rs. 49.74 crore.

We have received 40,978 petitions through ministers and through the scheme 'Chief Minister in your constituency'. Of these, 23,879 petitions have been accepted in the first phase.

On that basis, various welfare assistance to the value of Rs. 219 crore is being distributed through this event to 67,831 beneficiaries.

On the whole, works valued at Rs. 342.33 crore have been made available to people on this day alone.

A six-storey building at the Madurai Government Medical College complex, A five-storey apartment complex, A flyover at Kurivikaran Salai, An additional classroom at Mudukkuvarpatti Government Higher Secondary School, An additional classroom at Maniyanji, An additional classroom at Ya. Othakadai, Anganwadis opened at Chellampatti, Karuppatti and Arasapatti.

In this way, this Government will cater to the needs of towns, regions, taluks, streets and even the needs of individuals. Even micro-level problems will not escape the probing eyes of this Government.

We will remain a Government that bestows the same importance to the wishes and needs of an individual as it does to schemes huge and large.

That is why we have set up a development council for the entire development of Madurai city. We have fulfilled the needs of individuals also. This is the definition of our rule!

Madurai Vazhga! Immanilam Vazhga!

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-corruption offices

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** inaugurated the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-corruption offices built at a cost of Rs. 2.93 crore at 6 revenue Districts namely Kallakurichi, Tenkasi, Chengalpattu, Thirupattur, Ranipet and Mayiladuthurai, on behalf of the Human Resources Management Department, through video conferencing, at the Secretariat, on 22.01.2022.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates drinking water supply works for TNUHDC flats in Kolathur

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, on 21.01.2022, inaugurated drinking water supply works for multi-storied residential quarters of Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board at Gowthamapuram and construction works for sewerage removal station at G.K.M.Colony, and inspected and reviewed the ongoing rain water drainage scheme works and road laying works at Ashok Avenue, Rangadas Colony and Anjugam Nagar, all under the Kolathur constituency.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the 2.8 km-long drinking water pipe laying work from Vyasarpadi Drinking water Supply Station to Jawahar Road, to be executed by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply Drainage Board, at a cost of Rs. 99 lakh for providing drinking water to multi-storied residential quarters of the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board at Gowthamapuram.

Following this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister reviewed the newly constructed rain water drainage scheme at Jagannathan Road and Ashok Avenue, which will provide a permanent solution to the problem of stagnation of rain water.

Then the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the construction work of Sewerage Removal Station on Jambulingam Main Road in G.K.M.Colony, to be executed by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, at a cost of Rs. 40.30 lakh. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also reviewed the progress of rain water drainage scheme work in Rangadas Colony and Nethaji Colony Main Road.

Finally, he reviewed the road laying work on 12th Road in Anjugam Nagar and directed the officials to complete the ongoing works as per schedule.

2, 900 in Chennai District benefit under marriage aid scheme

The marriage assistance scheme of the Department of social welfare and women empowerment is to encourage women's higher education, to provide cash assistance to the parents of girl children and presentation of 8 gram gold coin for the 'thirumangalyam'.

Under the marriage assistance schemes, Rs. 762.23 crore has been allotted for the financial year 2021-2022 and a total of 94,700 persons - 53,599 degree and diploma holders and 41,101 non-graduates – are to be benefited.

On 13.01.2022, the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed at the Secretariat, marriage cash assistance along with 8 gram gold coins to 5 beneficiaries to mark the inauguration of the marriage assistance scheme to benefit 2,900 persons in Chennai District.

Thirukkural paintings Desk Calendar on sale

The Department of Tamil Development and Tamil Virtual Academy jointly conducted a state-level painting competition for school and college students under the title 'Kuraloviyam' following an announcement made in the Legislative Assembly that events in pure Tamil would be conducted in the name 'Theeraa Kadhal Thirukkural' (Thirukkural's Enticement) for taking Thirukkural to the younger generation.

About 12,000 students from across the state participated in the painting competition and the Tamil Virtual Academy designed and brought out a Thirukkural Desk Calendar Book, carrying 365 of the paintings selected from the entries to the competition and themed after Thirukkural couplets. The calendar has been designed so that it can be followed in all the years of the Gregorian calendar. Arrangements have been made for its sale to people.

The desk calendar book printed colourfully with coil binding is priced at Rs. 350 inclusive of service charges. Postal charge of Rs.80 is extra. Those interested in buying it can send their request, mentioning the number of books required, full address and a demand draft in favour of the Director of Tamil Virtual Academy, Chennai towards the price of the books. On the reverse side of the DD, the name of the book - Kuraloviyam Desk Calendar Book - buyer's name and mobile phone number should be mentioned without fail. The book can also be received through online registration -*https://www.tamilvu.org/tva_cal_2022_online/* and by remitting the fee online. The book is available for sale at the campuses of the Department of school education at Nungambakkam, Kotturpuram Anna Centenary Library and at the Tamil Virtual Academy, Kotturpuram (Phone no. 044 2220 9400), and at the sales centres of the Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation. For further information, Dr. R. Singaravelan, Resource Person, can be contacted through whatsapp message at 91-86104 67558.

News in Picture

Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology Thiru. T. Mano Thangaraj distributed orders to 36 persons for starting e-service centres, under Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited through private browsing centres, at the Secretariat on 22.01.2022.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates completed drinking water, underground sewerage schemes

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, at the Secretariat on 22.01.2022, inaugurated 17 completed schemes, worth Rs.662.22 crore, on behalf of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department and laid foundation for 5 new schemes, to be executed at a cost of Rs. 8.93 crore.

To ensure inclusive growth in towns and to attain long-term sustainable development, on behalf of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply, Combined drinking water system for 155 rural habitations in Palladam and Tiruppur Union in Tiruppur District, at a cost of Rs. 99.24 crore;

Combined drinking water supply scheme for 274 rural habitations in Thanthoni Union in Karur District at a cost of Rs.81.41 crore;

Combined Drinking Water supply scheme for 212 rural habitations in Pollachi (South), Pollachi (North), and Kinathukadavu Unions in Coimbatore District at a cost of Rs. 69.31 crore;

Drinking water upgradation scheme for Namakkal Municipality in Namakkal District at a cost of Rs.185.24 crore;

Combined drinking water supply scheme for 28 rural habitations in Kelamangalam Union in Krishnagiri District at a cost of Rs. 8.46 crore.

Underground sewerage schemes for Manachanallur Town Panchayat (Rs.30.11 crore) and S.Kannanur Town Panchayat in Tiruchirappalli District (Rs.19.45 crore);

Underground sewerage scheme for Perundurai Town Panchayat in Erode District (Rs.51.50 crore) and Vallam Town Panchayat in Thanjavur District (Rs.34.51 crore);

Sewerage Treatment Plant near Tharuvaikulam Fertilizer Godown, at a cost of Rs. 35.84 crore, Traffic Park near V.O.C. College, Science Park and Planetarium and Anthropology Park at a total cost of Rs. 9.76 crore and upgraded C.V.Tank, Mullikulam and Meelavattan Kulam at a cost of Rs. 11.50 crore, all under the Smart Thoothukudi Corporation Scheme;

Under the Infrastructure Development Scheme, a high-level bridge on the Kuruvikaran Salai in Madurai Corporation at a cost of Rs. 23.17 crore and a micro fertilizer unit opposite to Beschi College on the Karur Road at a cost of Rs. 70 lakh in Dindigul Corporation, under the solid waste management scheme;

Building for Urban Primary Health Centre in Karumbukadai, South Zone in Coimbatore Corporation at a cost of Rs.75 lakh; additional building for Kalapatti Corporation Primary School, at a cost of Rs. 77 lakh and a Dining Hall, constructed at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh, at the K.K.Pudur Corporation School.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open 17 completed schemes, all executed at a total cost of Rs. 662.22 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a library and science centre on the Thiruvallluvar Road in Dindigul Corporation at a cost of Rs.2.50 crore;

Development works at the Urban Health Centre at a cost of Rs. 1.40 crore in the Kamala Nehru hospital road, Dindigul District

Building for homeless people in urban areas in the Nehru Nagar in Hosur Corporation at a cost of Rs.1.03 crore, library and science centre at Kamaraj Colony at a cost of Rs. 2.50 crore and a modern crematorium at a cost of Rs. 1.50 crore at Mathagiri area, all in Krishnagiri District.

Totally foundation stones for 5 new schemes, to be executed at a cost of Rs. 8.93 crore, were laid by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Symbol of Patriotism

"I pay my respects to Nethaji Subash Chandra Bose, the symbol of patriotism to crores of people of India. Like the rays of the sun, his fame has spread all over the country. Let us march forward with patriotism in the light shown by him".

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. M.K. Stalin

The ultimate victory can only be won by those who have an unshakable heart....
- Nethaji

The Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Thiru. Ma. Subramanian paid floral tribute on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu to a portrait of Nethaji Subash Chandra Bose, kept near his statue, in connection with his 126th birth anniversary at Kamarajar Salai, Chennai on 23.01.2022.

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches UAV Corporation

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inaugurated on 25.01.2022, the Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Corporation, on behalf of the Higher Education Department, at the Anna University Campus. This new Corporation has been formed with the technical assistance of the Centre for Technology Development and Transfer of Anna University, at a cost of Rs.10 crore.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been implementing various schemes with a view to providing higher education to all people with equality and social justice. The State stands first in the enrolment of students in higher education. This is due to various special schemes initiated by the Higher Education and School Education Department.

In the 2021-2022 annual budget, it was announced that Anna University, as a new initiative, would launch an Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Corporation with technical assistance of Anna University. This Corporation would make use of drones not only in Tamil Nadu but also with similar agencies of other States.

The new Corporation has been formed with the technical assistance of Anna University, with an investment of Rs. 10 crore and will be utilized in the fields of disaster management, agriculture, infrastructure works, health, as well as aerial and environment research of the Government Departments. Dr.Kalam Advanced Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Research Centre in the Anna University is undertaking plans for design and up-gradation of drones for social purposes.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion also launched a solar power centre of 1 MW capacity, set up at a cost of Rs. 7.25 crore, at the Madurai Kamaraj University campus.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, as a token of handing over appointment orders to the heirs of 36 persons who died while in service in the Directorate of Technical Education and Directorate of College Education, gave away the orders to 4 persons.

Later, the Hon'ble Chief Minister witnessed the exhibition of drones, displayed at the Anna University complex. He also enquired about the functioning of the drones with technical staff.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said:

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Dr. K.Ponmudy, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Thiru. Ma. Subramanian, Principal Secretary for Higher Education Thiru. T.Karthikeyan I.A.S. who earlier welcomed the gathering, Director of Technical Education Tmt. K.Laxmi Priya I.A.S., Director of College Education Dr.C.Poornachandran, Vice Chancellor of the Anna University Dr.R.Velraj, Vice Chancellor of the Thiruvalluvar University, Dr.Thamarai Selvi, former Director of the ISRO Thiru. Mylswamy Annadurai, Professors, Government officials and friends from the print and visual media, at the outset I extend my warm welcome to all of you.

It is really fitting that the function is held at the Anna University, which has been named after our mentor Perarignar Anna.

Arignar Anna was a scholar among scholars. He had read most of the important books in the Connemara Library. I am really thankful to the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Dr.K.Ponmudy, for organizing the function in this campus, which has been named after our mentor Arignar Anna.

Dr. Ponmudy has been in politics right from his student days at Annamalai University and became Minister when he was a Professor in a Villupuram college. Now he is in charge of all the universities and colleges in the State and guiding the educational institutions. He is a Post-graduate in Politics, History and General Administration. To top it all, he has acquired a Doctorate Degree also. He is fit to be the Minister for Higher Education of the State. He has been making attempts to take higher education in the State to a higher level and I heartily congratulate him for his attempts.

On this occasion, 36 persons have been given appointment orders in the Higher Education Department. Though the appointments are given on compassionate grounds, they are all based on educational qualifications. I extend my greetings to all of you. I appeal to you to work with dedication to add to the reputation of those whose demise while in service gave you these posts. You must reflect on your family's tradition and get a name. For this I extend my greetings in advance to you.

I also declared open the Solar Power Centre of 1 MW capacity at the Madurai Kamaraj University Campus. The Sun means power. Nobody can separate the Sun and Power. Do not think I am talking politics. It is not necessary for me to talk politics at this function. I am mentioning only about the centre which generates solar power. This centre has been established with the financial assistance of Rs.7.25 crore from the Central Rural Electrification Corporation.

The requirement of power has been steadily increasing every day. One source of power to meet the increasing demand is solar energy. Through this function, I appeal to all Universities in the State to follow the example of Madurai Kamaraj University by setting up such new initiatives. I am extremely happy to know that Anna University has been creating research centres.

In the MIT complex, various research works are conducted. Following MIT, Anna University, on behalf of the Aerospace Research Centre, is designing drones and creating more models. I would like to congratulate each and every student and the teachers of the Centre. I would like to take this as an individual compliment to each student.

This Aerospace Research Centre has been designing drones with the financial assistance of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Earlier the drones were used by the Police Department. Then the drones were used for Aerial Photography, Disaster Management and surveying mines. Of late the demand for drones has been increasing. This is a forerunner for technical experiments of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Anna University should not be a university merely issuing degrees. It should become a research organization, spark more inventions and dedicate them to society.

Tamil Nadu has an abundant skilled youth force. Over 30 best educational institutions out of 100 are in Tamil Nadu, according to recent statistics.

Nowhere in the country are there schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities as in Tamil Nadu. The youth of Tamil Nadu are working throughout the world and are occupying top positions internationally. These young people came up in life through higher education in Tamil Nadu. More such youth should reach such higher positions.

There should be more research and new inventions in universities. Innovative courses that are taught in other countries should be introduced in Tamil Nadu universities also. Studies in Artificial intelligence are now occupying top position.

We should have Data Scientists, Cyber Security specialists, Artificial Intelligence experts and Customer Success Specialists. We should study Social Engineering, Digital Marketing, Behavioural Economics, Game Theory, History of Geography, History of Economics and Universe studies. We can go on adding more new courses and the Higher Education Department should encourage students to study those new courses.

Higher education experts should give advice to students. The reputation that Tamil Nadu is the best in Education is not enough. I want you to make the State the best in higher education and research. With these words, I conclude my speech by thanking you once again for giving me this opportunity to address you.

900 multi-storied flats in Sivagangai District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin,** at the Secretariat on 22.01.2022, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, laid the foundation stone for 900 multi-storied flats, to be constructed at a cost of Rs.130.20 crore at Kazhanivasal Scheme area in Sivagangai District.

National webinar on 'Taking forward the struggle for social justice and joint national programme'

A national webinar on 'Taking forward the struggle for social justice and joint national programme (for social justice movement)' was conducted by a group of social organizations on 26.1.2022. The organizations include AIBCF (All India Backward Classes Federation), SRA (Slum Rehabilitation Authority, Government of Maharashtra), PAGAAM (Phule Ambedkari Gauravshali Aur Adarshawadi Muhim), BAMCEF [All India Backward (SC, ST, OBC) & Minority Communities Employee Federation], We The People and LEAD India (Leadership for Environment and Development).

The participants in the webinar were Hon'ble Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Maharashtra, Thiru. Chhagan Chandrakant Bhujbal, Hon'ble Minister for Education, Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Adimulapu Suresh, Members of Parliament Thiruvalargal P. Wilson, Derek O' Brien, Manoj Kumar Jha and E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Justice (Retd.) Thiru. Virendra Singh Yadav of Allahabad High Court, Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Assembly Thiru. Tejashwi Yadav, Dravidar Kazhagam Leader Aasiriyar Thiru. K. Veeramani, PAGAAM Founder Thiru. Sardar Tajindar Singh Jhalli, BAMCEF founder Thiru. B.D. Borkar, LEAD INDIA President (USA) Dr. Hari Eppanapally, AIBF Co-ordinator and founder Justice Thiru. V. Eswaraiah. They lauded the steps taken by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin for ensuring 27 per cent reservation for the other backward classes communities in medical education.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** at the conclave *(English Translation)*

President of the Dravidar Kazhagam Manamigu Ayya Aasiriyar, Founder and Co-ordinator of AIBF Hon'ble Justice Thiru. Eswaraiah, Hon'ble Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Maharashtra, Thiru. Chhagan Chandrakant Bhujbal, Hon'ble Minister for Education, Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Adimulapu Suresh, Leader of the Opposition in Bihar Legislative Assembly Thiru. Tejashwi Yadav, DMK Member of Parliament and 27 per cent (Reservation) Legal Fighter Advocate Thiru. Wilson,

Indian Union Muslim League Kerala Member of Parliament Thiru. Mohammed Basheer, All India Trinamool Congress Party Parliament Leader Thiru. Derek O' Brien, Rashtriya Janata Dal party Parliament member Thiru. Manoj Kumar Jha, former Justice Thiru. Virendra Singh Yadav of Allahabad High Court,

Thiru. Sardar Tajindar Singh Jhalli of PAGAAM institution, Thiru. B.D. Borkar, BAMCEF Founder, President of LEAD India Trust Dr. Hari Eppanapally, activists in the cause of social justice all over India,

Human Rights enthusiasts, Advocates – I extend my greetings to all of you.This is a historic day; a day that must be etched in golden letters in the history of social justice.

This webinar is being conducted as an All India Meeting based on social justice. In his speech our 'Manamigu' Aasiriyar mentioned one thing pointedly: The Dravidian Movement does not expect any appreciation; this is its duty. I am duty-bound to second what he said.

This assembly, in my view, is one that has been convened to take steps for the protection of the next stage of social justice rights. I don't consider this an event of felicitation. Though the meeting is taking place through video conferencing, it is indeed a spectacle. My one regret is that Thanthai Periyar, Perarignar Anna and our Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar are not here to witness it.

All the three of them toiled all through their lives for the spread of this great social justice movement throughout India. Their efforts did not go to waste. Persons from the four corners of India have joined together today through video conferencing. To put it precisely, the concept of social justice has united us.

The seed sown by the Dravidian Movement has sprouted not only in Tamil Nadu but throughout India. Now we witness its harvesting. All those who spoke in this social justice event arranged by the organizations, SRA, PAGAAM, BAMCEF, We The People, and LEAD India, have praised me much. I dedicate their words of praise to the crores of volunteers of the DMK.

This humble person could contribute whatever is possible to this kind of achievement due to the strength of our volunteers and the enthusiasm they provide me daily.

Through constant struggle, we have achieved success for social justice. A great achievement has been performed in the history of social justice by achieving 27 per cent reservation for the OBCs in all the medical colleges in India. This achievement was not obtained casually. We got it through the struggle we waged, in the people's forum, Parliament, Legislative Assembly and in the courts. I am proud to say that the DMK has contributed greatly to this struggle.

Social justice is the Dravidian Movement's very important bounty to this country. Social justice is inclusive development.

The Justice Party provided reservation for all communities in 1921. When a threat came for that reservation and its methodology from the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it was Periyar, Perarignar Anna and Perumthalaivar Kamarajar who fought against it strongly and brought about a constitutional amendment in the year 1950.

It was the DMK which raised the 25 per cent reservation for the backward classes to 31 per cent; again, it was the DMK that raised the reservation for scheduled castes to 18 per cent from 16 per cent; the scheduled tribes were included in this 18 per cent; a separate reservation of 1 per cent was allotted to the scheduled tribes and this paved the way for the scheduled castes to have the 18 per cent wholly to themselves and for the present 69 per cent reservation.

Inclusion of the Adi Dravida Christians in the backward classes was also done by the DMK. The most backward 107 communities were grouped together and given a 20 per cent reservation under the most backward classes by the DMK.

The party also gave a 3 per cent sub-reservation for the Arunthathiyar community and a 3.5 per cent sub-reservation for Muslims.

As per the Mandal Commission recommendation we got a 27 per cent reservation for the OBCs in Union Government's jobs by pressuring the then Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

It is the DMK that passed the legislation that community is no bar for becoming archakas in temples. This is the DMK; its great contribution to the concept of social justice.

In its continuation we fought for 27 per cent reservation in medical education and we have obtained it.

Our Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar continued to stress upon reservation for the OBC classes at the all-India level. He was constantly pressuring the Union Government. It became a permanent policy in the Election manifestos of the DMK.

We have put in more efforts for this from 2019. Our Rajya Sabha member and senior advocate Thiru. Wilson conducted this case as if it was his own. To put it more openly, he worked as a social justice fighter rather than as an advocate. I requested the Prime Minister in 2019 to place a white paper on OBC reservation in MBBS. DMK members in both Houses of Parliament raised questions about it. Our M.P., Wilson met the Union Health Minister regarding OBC reservation in undergraduate MBBS

and Dental college seats, handed over a letter and stressed that it be implemented. I criticized the Union Government as it did not provide a proper reply.

The DMK filed a case in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in May 2020 as it felt that the Union Government would not oblige on its own. We also convened an all party meeting. The party was directed to file the case in the Hon'ble High Court. Still the Union Government did not relent. They cited the Saloni Kumari case and dodged the issue saying a decision could be taken only after the disposal of that case. The Hon'ble Supreme Court gave a verdict that the two cases are different.

The Madras High Court gave a judgment that the OBC community should be given the reservation and ordered that it should be implemented from 2021-2022. This is a big victory. As the Union Government did not provide it, the DMK filed a contempt of court case. The Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the Union Government to implement it in a proper way.

Only on 26.07.2021, the Solicitor General of India assured the court of implementing the court's orders. Some people are doing the propaganda that it is the BJP Government that has given the reservation to the OBCs. They don't know the facts.

The DMK filed the case in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in May 2020. The BJP Government acceded to it in July 2021. They can forget these facts but cannot hide them. This cannot be considered as a victory just in one court case. This is a victory for the backward and oppressed race. Our task does not end with this. Social justice is social equality; equality not merely in education and job opportunities. It should be created in all places.

The world famous economic genius Amartya Sen has said: "Justice should be established wherever there is injustice". The Dravidian movement is toiling for ushering in that justice. The Dravidian Movement's basic tenet is there is no blood or gender distinction. It's important goal is social justice and women's rights. We are about to spread this great ideology not only in Tamil Nadu but throughout India.

High-level incentive for little Grandmaster

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** presented at the Secretariat on 20.01.2022, a cheque for Rs. 8 lakh, the high-level incentive, to Selvan Bharath Subramaniam of Tamil Nadu for winning the International Master title in Chess competitions in 2019 and the Grandmaster title in 2022.

Selvan Bharath Subramaniam, a 9th standard student in Chennai, has been participating in chess competitions at the state, national and international levels from the age of five, from the year 2013. A regular participant in international events, he played well and won the International Master title in 2019 and the Grandmaster title in 2022, at the age of 14 and thus brought honour to India and Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the high-level incentive of Rs. 8 lakh – Rs. 3 lakh for winning the International Master title in 2019 and Rs. 5 lakh for the Grandmaster title in 2022, through a cheque.

February 03: Death anniversary of Perarignar Anna

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** placed wreaths at the memorial of Perarignar Anna and Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar on Kamarajar Salai, Marina beach, Chennai, on 03.02.2022, in connection with the 53rd death anniversary of the former and paid his respects.

Kalaignar Ezhudhukol Virudhu

An award **‘Kalaignar Ezhudhukol Virudhu’** will be presented every year to a journalist who has contributed to the development of society and the marginalized sections of the people. The award carries a prize money of Rs. 5 lakh and an appreciation certificate.

Greetings to “Padma Shri” awardee

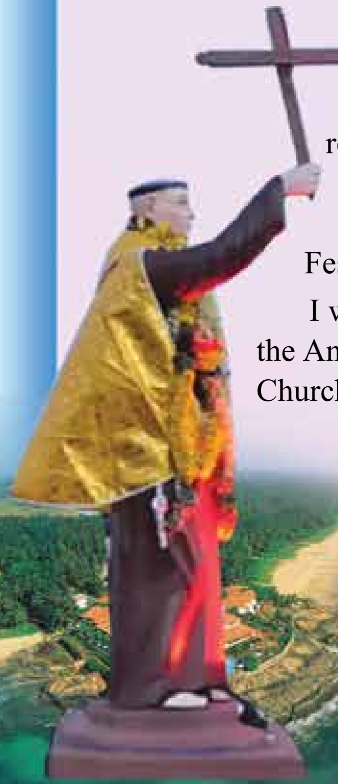
Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** offered his good wishes to Tmt. Muthukannammal, ‘Sadhirattam’ artiste of Viralimalai, Pudukkottai District and selected for the ‘Padma Shri’ award, when she called on him at the Secretariat on 07.02.2022.

January 18: Vallalar Jothi Vision day

Let us foster love and humanitarianism, by remembering Vadalur Ramalinga Vallalar, who suffered pain when he witnessed withering crops, sated the hunger of the poor through his ever-lit hearth and strove for a casteless Samarasa Sanmarga society.

- Thiru. M.K. Stalin
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Hon'ble Chief Minister urges centre to ensure participation of fishermen in Katchatheevu church festival



D.O. Letter dated 04.02.2022 of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin**, addressed to the Hon'ble Union External Affairs Minister, requesting to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to enable the participation of Tamil Nadu fishermen in the Annual Festival of St. Anthony's Church.

I write this to bring to your kind notice about the Annual Festival of St. Antony at St. Antony's Church, Katchatheevu that is being celebrated every year during the month of February/ March. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been facilitating the safe journey of the fishermen devotees of Tamil Nadu who wish to participate in the Festival.

It has come to my notice that fishermen devotees of Tamil Nadu are not allowed to participate in the Annual Festival this year, citing various reasons by the Sri Lankan authorities.

The Tamil fishermen and pilgrims have spiritual and emotional attachment with St. Antony's Church, Katchatheevu and have been participating in this traditional event for several decades now. The news of denial by Sri Lankan authorities has caused deep disappointment among the fishermen community in the State. In view of the above, I request you to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to enable the participation of Tamil Nadu fishermen in the Annual Festival of St. Anthony's Church as has been the tradition every year. I am sure that your efforts will ensure in preserving good relations between the people of both countries.

Member of Parliament Thiru. T.R. Baalu met in person the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar and gave the letter

'Ramanujar's Statue of Equality should reflect national unity'

I respectfully thank you for inviting me for the consecration of the Golden Ramanujar. On this noble occasion, I wish that Ramanujar's voice of Equality spreads across the country elegantly and emphatically. This symbol of "Statue of Equality" is the need of the hour for the inclusive and progressive development of the Nation as a whole!

It is my duty to highlight that it is our Leader Muthamizh Arignar Dr. Kalaignar who all along tirelessly fought for Equality both as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and as the Leader of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. He had brought out the essence of Ramanujar's life by scripting the tele-serial on the seer's life and times. It was also the last of his literary and theatrical works, but that is living and will live on to take the life and works of the Great Social Reformer to future generations too - especially among the young masses of our Country.

I take this opportunity to inform you, further that the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu follows in the footsteps of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar. The social reforms advocated by Ramanujar are close to our hearts too. In one of our reformist approaches, my Government appointed archakas in temples from all castes and ensured equality for all in performing poojas in the sanctum sanctorum of the temples in Tamil Nadu.

In the last eight months that we have been in office, my Government have ensured that the temple administration in the State is streamlined and been allocating necessary funds across the State for the proper and effective management of temples, duly taking care of the welfare of all priests in temples. It is the HR&CE Department which implemented numerous schemes and welfare measures that benefited priests and devotees. Today, Tamil Nadu is having one of the best temple administrations among the States in the Country.

I whole heartedly wish the function a grand success and this "Statue of Equality" remain as the Symbol of National Integration.

- ***Thiru. M.K. Stalin***
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

(Letter of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to Sri Tridandi Chinna Sriman Narayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamiji thanking for his invitation for the unveiling of Golden statue of Sri Ramanujar- Statue of Equality- 05.02.2022).

February 6 : Birth anniversary of Narayanasamy Naidu

In connection with the 97th birth anniversary of farmers' leader Narayanasamy Naidu, respect was paid to his statue on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, at his memorial in Vaiyampalayam in Coimbatore District on 06.02.2022.

Uthama Thiyagi

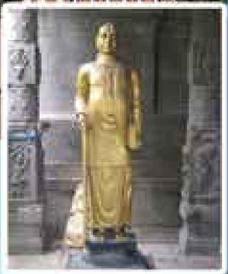
Today is the birth anniversary of Uthama Thiyagi Narayanasamy Naidu, who worked for the welfare and rights of farmers throughout his life. On this day, I take the vow that the present Government will work to fulfill his ideas and thoughts. Let his fame and glory remain forever.

- ***Thiru. M.K. Stalin***
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

January 01: Birth anniversary of Omandur Ramaswamy Reddiar

In connection with the 128th birth anniversary of Omandur Ramaswamy Reddiar, the Hon'ble Minister for Minorities Welfare and Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Department, Thiru. Gingee K.S.Masthan, garlanded and paid floral tribute to his statue at the Omandur Government Memorial, Villupuram on 01.02.2022.

January 27: Birth anniversary of Swami Sagajanantha



In connection with the birth anniversary of Swami Sagajanantha, District Collector (FAC), Thiru. Sanjeeth Singh I.A.S., garlanded and paid respects to his statue in his Memorial at Usuppur Panchayat, Cuddalore District on 27.01.2022.

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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** released a Thirukkural calendar to mark Thiruvalluvar Day, at Valluvar Kottam in Chennai, on 15.01.2022.

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In connection with the 75th death anniversary of Uthamar Gandhiyadigal, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. R.N.Ravi** and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** paid floral tribute to a portrait of the Uthamar Gandhiyadigal, at the Marina beach, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai, on 30.01.2022.

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